

JPRS 81921

4 October 1982

Latin America Report

No. 2584



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

4 October 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2584

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

GUATEMALA

- Official Optimistic About Country's Energy Prospects
(PRENSA LIBRE, 20 Aug 82) 1

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Camilion: Clearly Defined Border Main Objective in Beagle Talks
(Oscar Camilion; LA NUEVA PROVINCIA, 7 Aug 82) 2

ARGENTINA

- Labor Leader Lorenzo Miguel Discusses Unity Efforts
(Lorenzo Miguel Interview; CONVICCION, 8 Aug 82) 7
- Antarctic Pioneer Jorge Leal Writes on Sovereignty Issue
(Jorge Leal; LA VOZ, 30 Aug 82) 10
- Peronist Grondona: Moderates Key To Future Institutional Stability
(Mariano Grondona; SOMOS, 3 Sep 82) 13
- Highway Engineer Criticizes Maintenance Program
(Jorge Perales; SOMOS, 3 Sep 82) 16
- Province Housing Shortage Reaches One Million
(CLARIN, 15 Aug 82) 18
- UMA Organizes Protest Demonstration
(LA PRENSA, 21 Aug 82) 19

COLOMBIA

- Defense Minister Issues Statement on Lawlessness
(EL TIEMPO, 25 Aug 82) 21

CUBA

Reportage on Internationalist Brigades (GRANMA; 29 Jul, 9 Aug 82)	23
Medical Teachers in PDRY, by Roberto Gili C. Construction Workers in Libya, by Jose Gabriel Guma	
Past 30 Years of U.S.-Puerto Rican Relations Noted (Talia Carol; BOHEMIA, 6 Aug 82)	35

EL SALVADOR

Government Authorizes Dollar Market Liberalization (LA PRENSA GRAFICA, 10, 11 Aug 82)	44
BCR Explains Measure Additional Clarification	

GUATEMALA

Labor Minister Predicts High Unemployment in 1983 (PRENSA LIBRE, 19 Aug 82)	46
Government Plans To Counteract Unemployment (EL IMPARCIAL, 19 Aug 82)	48

MEXICO

First Sidermex Overseas Steel Sales in Three Years (EXCELSIOR, 30 Aug 82)	49
Peasants Retake Lands in Puebla (Gonzalo del Villar; UNOMASUNO, 24 Aug 82)	51
Church Campaign To Increase Religious Vocations (UNOMASUNO, 26 Aug 82)	53
Briefs Rural Road Network Growth	54

NICARAGUA

Country To Export 26 Million Pounds of Meat (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 6 Aug 82)	55
Malnutrition Important Concern of Government (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 15 Aug 82)	58
Malacatoya Sugar Mill Project Described (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 31 Jul 82)	61
Briefs Increase in Employment	63

OFFICIAL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT COUNTRY'S ENERGY PROSPECTS

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Aug 82 p 16

[Text] Guatemala is fast approaching its energy independence, which will represent an initial savings of 90 million quetzals, Alejandro Contreras Bonilla, secretary of mining fossil fuels, and nuclear power, stated yesterday.

He said that the Chixoy hydroelectric project, which is about to be finished and inaugurated, is what will basically give the country its energy independence.

Mr Contreras Bonilla added that the government's policy in that field is aimed at reducing recombined crude imports while at the same time increasing domestic crude production.

Could reach 9,000 barrels

When asked whether domestic crude production is continuing the same volume, (7,000 barrels a day), he said that production could be increased before the end of this year, to which end all necessary tests will be performed.

He added that the explorations and drillings that have been done indicate that Guatemala could easily have sizeable reserves, according to the latest discoveries.

Mr Contreras Bonilla later stated that another well began yielding from 1,500 to 2,000 barrels a day. This well was sunk in the Rubelsanto fields, and he said that because of it, production could possibly increase to 9,000 barrels.

No Mention of a New Ministry

To date there is no proposal whatsoever for the creation of a ministry of mining, fossil fuels, and nuclear power, the secretary went on to say.

So all the rumors going around about it are just mere speculation.

Such rumors are not true and the creation of such a ministry has not been contemplated; on the contrary: the chief executive has outlined a policy of austerity, which is tantamount to saying there will be no bureaucratic expansion.

CAMILION: CLEARLY DEFINED BORDER MAIN OBJECTIVE IN BEAGLE TALKS

Bahia Blanca LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 7 Aug 82 p 2

[Article in column "The Pulse of the World" by Oscar Camilion: "The Beagle Negotiation"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Different versions are circulating with respect to the course of the talks on the southern dispute. This is a delicate subject, since the negotiations have not yet reached their conclusion; it is an extremely complex one, /and some points, seemingly of detail, have high values of their own/. The problem is one of special technical content, and each of its marginal issues, apart from the central territorial question, warrants much attention and hardly lends itself to public and clamorous debate. There are, however, certain policy aspects that can be discussed from an outer vantage point and without being steeped in the details of the current stage, which fortunately is being conducted discreetly and without facile scandals around a matter of such importance being mongered for internal political reasons or, rather, because they serve the conspirative purposes of certain groups, as occurred not too long ago. One of the things that has brought little honor upon those who have occupied positions of high responsibility in recent times has been their agitative use of matters involving the highest interests of the Argentine Republic.

With respect to the debate on the Treaty of 1881, Bernardo de Irigoyen has observed that General Roca's government did not reach an agreement based on starting from leaf zero, but rather, in good measure, committed by prior decisions that, diplomatically speaking, were closed cases. The same is true today. The diplomatic debate that today surrounds the Papal proposal of December 1980, and the public discussion that, well or poorly informed though it be, accompanies it, must be based on prior assumptions, which are sometimes not widely known or are deliberately forgotten by those who intervene from distant positions.

/For example, the Beagle talks cannot be separated from the decision taken by Dr Illia's government to treat the Rio Encuentro-Palena dispute separately, contradistinctly from the previous position that sought to treat all border disputes with Chile as parts of a single package/. It is also a fact that the Argentine government once again agreed to negotiate the [Beagle] Channel border

and the sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands (that would result from it) as an issue in itself, separate from other conflictive differences--some of them very important--because it understood that on this point the Chilean Government was favorably predisposed, and because it was desirous of restoring overall relations with its neighboring country to a positive footing.

This decision was taken during the final phase of Lt Gen Juan Carlos Onganía's government, ratified and partially implemented during the brief tenure of Gen Roberto Levingston, and completed juridically during the period of Gen Alejandro Agustín Lanusse's regime. All of this was accompanied by the negotiation of the Treaty on Peaceful Settlements that replaced the old Protocol of 1902.

From the Argentine Government's viewpoint, these decisions marked out a policy line that would have to be very much taken into account by those who would subsequently be taking over the conduct of diplomacy, whether from a seat circumstantially vested with that function within the Junta de Comandantes or from within the subordinate, but decisively influential, military hierarchical echelons. Nations must show continuity and it is to be assumed that they set long-term objectives that cannot be modified with each situational change, and much less so when such changes do not stem from adequate professional expertise in fields as specialized as that of territorial sovereignty. One need not abound in reasons for condemning changes that are the mere consequence of internal power disputes or of a lack of resolve to address reality as it is. Or, worse still, when the debates on problems that are sometimes of juridical substance center solely on a seeking to adopt seemingly harder policy lines which, supposedly, would more effectively safeguard the nation's sovereignty or its interests.

Of course, these issues are not always suited to public debate, and for a very simple reason. Until an issue has been finally settled, it is always possible to improve a country's final negotiating position in not unappreciable ways. After all, the golden rule of diplomacy is that a nation's foreign office negotiates with other states, and not with internal public opinion. It may be said that putting up with the criticisms from without "goes with part of the salary" that is paid to ministers and ambassadors. Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, whom no one can accuse of being an obliging negotiator, once said to the undersigned, when the negotiation of Itaipu-Corpus came to a standstill with the emergence of the issue of the two additional turbines: "There is always someone more intelligent than the people." This is why it is often impossible to bring the internal debate fully out into the open, a situation that demands of the negotiating government a very high degree of civic courage such as is rarely exhibited by political or military leaders.

Nevertheless, what can rightfully be asked of those who must make such decisions is that they be adequately informed of the stages in a diplomatic process which, when it involves a border negotiation, is always long and extremely complex. /And, above all, when, as in this case, it was a government of the Armed Forces (based on the CONASE [National Security Council] resolution of March 1970) that decided

to negotiate the Beagle case through arbitration, and when that decision was, from a practical standpoint, ratified by the civil government that succeeded the mentioned military one, in that the civil government never took advantage of its many opportunities to renounce that arbitratative commitment when it was possible to do so/.

Of course, the Beagle proceedings have many aspects, and Argentina is not the only one to have assumed commitments at various stages. General Videla's government declared null and void the finding of the arbitral tribunal, established by the queen of England, and Chile could hardly deny that this declaration produced repercussions; otherwise, the two Montevideo agreements of January 1979 and the entire Mediation proceeding would be devoid of all meaning. Similarly, since Argentina did not accept the Papal Proposal of December 1980 (although it did not formally reject it), and inasmuch as negotiations are continuing, it would be incongruent on the part of the Santiago government to argue that we are dealing with an unmodifiable dictum in the form of the pronouncement by His Holiness. There would be no basis for this, since John Paul II's text leaves many important issues unresolved, expressly, and since what the Pope advanced was /one/ "Proposal," regardless of what additional defense of it the Holy See may have pro-
pounded, characterizing it as just and honorable.

The Political and the Juridical

What Argentina must resolve today is the style of its future relationship with Chile, one of our country's principal neighbors. The complex factor in that neighborship is an undemarcated and, in part (Beagle case), undelimited border. It should be added that, when the distance between boundary markers is very great and the geography very complex, the difference between undemarcated areas and undelimited areas becomes little or nothing. The undemarcated continental area between Argentina and Chile is long and important. To this is added the impression that Argentina is experiencing a Chilean expansionist ambition, an impression that finds ample support in statements abounding in certain sectors of its neighboring country. There can be no doubt that there are some in Chile who harbor a kind of /"Atlantic mania"/, a somewhat puerile one, which reaches well beyond the fact that there are lands under Chilean sovereignty lying east of the Horn. After all, at least one-fourth of the island of Navarino is so situated and no one in Argentina has disputed Chile's sovereignty over that fragment. The decreeing of straight base lines that followed from the British arbitration, and the projection into the mouth of the Magallanes, which is resurveyed periodically, are not mere cases of extremisms of the type of the Costa Seca theory. /In this sense, if the Chilean Government would publicly ratify the operative force of the May Pacts and the meaning of the "natural defense and permanent destiny" principle respective to each country in its ocean, it would facilitate things enormously/. This is all the more important in that no agreement of any kind whatever is seen possible without a ratification of this political principle, which, of course, would not be restrictive of sovereignty in the case of islands or islets.

From the policy viewpoint, what interests Argentina is abundantly clear: /A secure and precisely delimited border with Chile that will do away once and for all with any possible claim to further expansion into the Atlantic/. Undoubtedly, Argentina cannot agree, from one day to the next, to proceed to a constriction of its South, along its entire southern boundary, with Chile and with the Chilean sea [this passage as published]. This would be tantamount to changing the national map, which no country accepts as the result of a negotiation even though the Holy See may be involved. Not that this is, at all, the result that follows from the Papal Proposal to the extent that the latter has been made known.

/The real debate on the Proposal centers on the question of whether there emerges from it a clear delimitation and a clear area of Argentine sovereignty opposable to third parties/. What is involved at this time is not the presence or non-presence of Chilean islands east of the Horn meridian. What is being debated is whether a border that delimits jurisdictions must necessarily be demarcated on dry land or whether it can be based on a line traced through the ocean, which complicates matters in this case, for some, because part of the demarcating line extends beyond the line that can be projected from the Argentine coast of Tierra del Fuego and of the Isla de los Estados.

/It is abundantly clear that Argentina's political objective is a crystalline delimitation of the Chilean boundary to the East, the containment of any and all expansion of a significant nature into the Atlantic, and, in turn, an unquestionable characterization of Argentine jurisdictional waters/. This political objective necessitates a juridical instrument that is opposable to third parties, which is the issue under discussion. From the practical standpoint, it is a matter of determining whether the boundary passes over the enveloping line that surrounds the 12 miles of sea from the islands and eastern islets, or whether that boundary must in some manner touch land upon the said islands and islets. It becomes obvious from this that not too much is at stake from the Chilean viewpoint, since its claim to wanting to extend its waters 200 miles eastward, while feasible under present international law, was clearly not contemplated by the Treaty of 1881. Discarding this unacceptable and exorbitant extension, what is really at issue becomes to a certain extent relativized but not indifferent.

It is necessary, in any case, that public opinion understand clearly that what is being debated today is, rather, the degree of validity of a covenanted boundary from the standpoint of its opposability to third parties, which is a juridical point. It is not very statesman-like, of course, to argue that Chile could at any time disown an agreed jurisdictional line, since we ourselves could do the same: Anyone with sufficient power and bad faith can always seek to validate the phrase "rebus sic stantibus."

Fortunately, one complicating factor has been eliminated, namely, the equating of the Beagle dispute to a "casus belli." This has been a consequence of the Malvinas war, which has revealed the extent to which the use of military force is a restricted one. This was clear from the start, and the undersigned took it

upon himself to write an essay based on Clausewitz, in which all of the justifications of war analyzed in his classic work were evaluated to show that none of them fit the situation between Argentina and Chile. The fact was that this viewpoint was not precisely shared by those who had adopted the attitude of considering Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador or the Sinai Peninsula as areas of possible Argentine military intervention. The urban-level Messianic phase having been overcome, what becomes unmistakable is the inopportuneness, for Argentina, of an eventual collusion between Chile and Great Britain that would further develop the serious risk that loomed during the Malvinas war. Because in Chile another Messianism could develop with respect to Patagonia, with the difference that, nourished, under certain conditions, by political fantasy, it could indeed become, for Santiago, a "casus belli."

The reality of the Malvinas during a phase of unpredictable duration is that of a hostile military presence. /The British/--and it is to be hoped it will be they alone--/will remain installed in the islands, not to monitor the navigation of Soviet submarines in the South Atlantic, but to keep watch on Argentina/. This is a prospect that, disagreeable as it is delicate, will catch Argentina in a general diplomatic position that is to be addressed in the forthcoming General Assembly. It would be foolhardy to be optimistic in the short term; this underscores the extreme seriousness of a continuing conflict with the United Kingdom.

The unsoundness of seeking to keep open the current phase of the military conflict with Great Britain would not merit further analysis, were it not for the fact that there are still armchair generals. /This, however, does not resolve the issue of bilateral relations, because Argentina can never undertake a formal commitment not to resort to war to recover what it rightfully owns, and even if it did undertake such a commitment, this commitment would be lacking in validity by virtue of its incompatibility with Argentina's status as a nation/. It is a philosophical problem, that is, a problem of political philosophy, that comportment aimed at not making war, as dictated by political prudence, does not entail the renouncement of war as a resort. Since this leads to a state of unavoidably unstable equilibrium in Argentine-British relations, it would be to no advantage to Argentina to extend this instability to Argentine-Chilean relations. And this fact must be taken into account by those who today shoulder the high responsibility holding Argentina to the frame of reference of the Papal Mediation.

A few weeks ago, we compared the present bitter situation against the terms of the /Belaunde Proposal/ on the Malvinas issue. /The government, on that occasion, lacked the necessary courage to negotiate a solution that would have been highly advantageous to the national interest/. It assumed, instead, the unpunished blame for the defeat, a prisoner of the psychological behavior it had unleashed and of the the silence it had, to a significant extent, imposed on those who sought to bring reason to bear on the situation. The same thing cannot be allowed to happen again: It cannot be allowed that those who yell the loudest play loosely with the highest interests of the nation.

9238

CSO: 3010/2310

LABOR LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL DISCUSSES UNITY EFFORTS

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 8 Aug 82 p 23 2

[Interview with Lorenzo Miguel by Ruben Ortiz; date and location not specified]

[Text] In an interview held with him by CONVICCION, Lorenzo Miguel declared: "We are, and we shall continue to be engaged in the search for definitive unity of the labor movement."

The conversation did not avoid the political issues that have attracted the union leader. Rumors attribute to him an intention of backing the person of Antonio Cafiero, Miguel's former collaborator and the only Justicialist who has proclaimed himself a candidate for president to date, and one of the potential names on a list of those with ambitions of reaching the Casa Rosada.

Union Protests

[Question] The union protests over the socioeconomic situation are becoming intensified. To what do you attribute this, and what solution do you discern for the workers' problems?

[Answer] The workers' socioeconomic problems will worsen so long as there are de facto governments; because, obviously, the agreement between the business owners, workers and state, which is the basis for social understanding, becomes interrupted.

And then what happens? There is a very great time lag, from which consequences stem later, for example, the advent of the "Rodrigazo," which was the result of an 18-year suspension of collective bargaining. And now we are running the risk of having the same thing happen.

We believe that the law must be used to defend everyone, especially the most needy. That is why CGT [General Labor Confederation] has put forth the demand that there be an equalizing of the purchasing power to buy basic items with the cost of the family market basket. And then the government must establish a price controller, governed by good sense and democratic standards, so that there will not be any competition between prices and wages.

[Question] There comes to mind the occasion when the unions demanded, and obtained increases of between 100 and 140 percent....

[Answer] It is true, and someone might have thought that this was irresponsibility on the part of the labor movement, but it was not so. The ones who had to give that raise were the industrialists themselves, who had stalled them for 18 years. The wage was restored in 1975, but that must have happened in 1960 or 1956; because we had no collective bargaining after 1954.

[Question] With regard to the proliferation of the union demands, and their increasing aspect, the government has signaled the possibility that this situation may become destabilizing.

[Answer] We are advocates of the petition, and we have done this through comrade Ubaldini, to the minister of labor, Hector Villaveiran; but we want positive responses. We are certain that the petition made by the labor movement is just; and therefore we are at ease.

Politics

[Question] I propose that we move to the political realm. The rumor has been made public that CGT on Brasil Street, the 62 Organizations and you, personally, have decided to back Gen (ret) Ernesto Fatigati as a candidate for head of the party.

[Answer] We are unfamiliar with what you have said; we are unfamiliar with it. The party has not yet embarked on that process. In addition to being a movement, Justicialism is a party, and there are associative bodies that will establish the strategy to be pursued, and will name the individuals whom they consider suitable.

[Question] There has recently been made public the alignment of leaders of the Azopardo CGT with the head of the Justicialist Action Coordinating entity, Angel Robledo. What is your opinion of this?

[Answer] I respect the intellect of Dr Robledo, and he will know whether a division in our movement would be caused by that announcement. If there is anyone calling for, or encouraging it, it seems all right to me, because our movement is democratic.

[Question] Has the conveying of the political concerns of certain union members through Robledo affected the 62 Organizations?

[Answer] No, absolutely not; because some will call for Robledo, and others will call for different individuals; and the decisions will come later. Furthermore, Dr Robledo has already had an opportunity to participate in our congress, without the luck of being elected; while Bittel has had it. Now, if anyone wants to cause division in our movement with such a proposal, he is mistaken.

[Question] And what about Mrs Peron?

[Answer] Those of us who happen to know the thinking of Mrs Peron realize that she will abide by what the organic bodies decide, without precluding the fact that, as head of the movement, she can determine the strategy to be pursued.

UOM [Metalworkers Union]

[Question] The secretaries general of the Federal Capital Local of UOM have just made public their support given to you "in the political and union leadership heading the Peronist 62 Organizations." How do you interpret this position, which is also endorsed by Ruben Marcos, the secretary general?

[Answer] As very normal. I say normal because it is not a personal whim, involving an advantage for an individual, but rather a position benefiting the organization, which should never have deviated from that line.

No one wants to take away Marcos' position. He is forming a body, and is in charge of the secretary general's office. In this instance, what is involved is recognition for the position and background of Lorenzo Miguel on the part of his colleagues; and Marcos will remain in the post, but within guidelines which are traditional in the union and which were interrupted in 1976.

[Question] The sector headed by Luis Guerrero has just formed a new leadership for UOM and, in a petition, has accused you implicitly of having thwarted the union's unity.

[Answer] The fact is that there was no need to create any unity, but rather to continue and uphold what our predecessors left. It is quite simple; what those of us who held positions of responsibility heading the organizations until 1976 and, in some instances, after we were prevented by special laws, think is that we must continue with what is stipulated by the organic bodies that were in force until that year.

Trade Union Unity

[Question] From 1976 until the present, all attempts to achieve trade union unity have systematically failed. Are there still any prospects of attaining that goal?

[Answer] The topic of unity is one that is discussed a great deal, but we are uncomplicated and specific. At present, there is something that wants to call itself the "Azopardo CGT"; but the traditional Azopardo CGT belongs to everyone, and not to one sector, because that, precisely, has been and is still the premise held by those of us leaders who truly want unity.

Obviously, there are some who want to divert the unity from its essential, permanent objectives. Those of us who belong to the CGT that Saul Ubaldini heads have always maintained that unity is an indispensable factor for the success of the demands made by the workers who, moreover, are calling for it with increasing intensity.

It is a mistake to think that anyone wants unity for his own benefit, or to continue to have power; it is a mistake. I challenge those individuals, whose intentions or whose strategy for making those accusations I do not know; but we are, and shall continue to be searching for the definitive unity of the labor movement.

1979

1979

ANTARCTIC PIONEER JORGE LEAL WRITES ON SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE

Buenos Aires LA VOZ in Spanish 30 Aug 82 p 3

[Article by Jorge Leal]

[Text] Despite the fact that our entitlement to sovereignty over the Antarctic Sector is legitimate, genuine and geared to the requirements of international law, except for Chile (with which there is a kind of mutual recognition of sovereignty over the South American Antarctic), no other country has acknowledged what we fittingly proclaim as our own. Added to this disturbing circumstance is the certain fact that those who are powerful in the world, now more than ever engaged in a tremendous dispute over the control of energy sources such as petroleum and minerals considered critical and strategic, have visualized the White Continent as an area in which to assert their ambitions for control. Scientific research has shown them the extraordinary wealth and broad economic horizons underlying its thick ice cap.

All the reasons attesting to our entitlement to sovereignty in the Antarctic region and the attractive aspect represented to the nation by that fabulous "reserve area" owing to the riches contained in its land and seas are compounded by two situations which the Argentines cannot and must not forget:

- a. It is a geostrategic area of vital importance in the context of our national defense, and one with very special significance in international geopolitical concepts;
- b. It is a region wherein climatological phenomena and biological activity of essential importance originate, and have a direct influence on the rest of the national territory. This fact, therefore, makes it even more necessary that the zone be incorporated into the nation's organic structure.

What has been stated warrants the attention that we must give to the Antarctic issue, an attention that must be turned into concerned alarm as soon as we consider the positions of certain countries operating in the area.

The region in question is governed by the terms of the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1961. This is an agreement grouping the countries that are acting on the Sixth Continent and, in its capacity as an international instrument, it stipulates:

1. Non-militarization; 2. freedom of scientific research; 3. the establishment of a "status quo" (freeze), insofar as sovereignty is concerned; 4. a ban on nuclear tests and on the dumping of atomic waste there.

The signing of this treaty was challenged in our country at the time. In my opinion, joining such an exclusive "club" may be regarded as addressing our interests, in view of the fact that the agreement does not actually affect nor change the fitting proclamation of sovereignty over the sector made by our country. Moreover, the Antarctic Treaty does not stipulate anything in its terms that the countries could not have done freely without it, and does rule on things that cannot be done. What is permitted is subject to reciprocal control, and does not produce rights of any kind. But, despite the treaty's clearcut stipulations and its express purpose, aimed at preventing this part of the planet from being a scene or object of international discord, which is the reason for the attempt not to invade the realm of the exploitation of its resources, certain countries (such as the United States, Great Britain and Norway, among others) are attempting to introduce legislation on that subject with great alacrity. They are concentrating their interest on the exploitation of oil in particular.

We must become aware of the fact that this maneuver is extremely serious for our Antarctic interests, because it is the very companies of those "in a hurry" to legislate that are already extracting oil in the Antarctic, using new, exclusive techniques. One can readily infer the speed with which these techniques would be adapted to the Antarctic and, therefore, only those countries would benefit from the immediacy. With the "haste," they would succeed in making a considerable reduction in the number of competitors. Needless to say, our country would not be included in the distribution, because it lacks the polar techniques for such exploitation.

On this issue, I maintained at the time that it was essential for Argentina to attempt to impose a moratorium on all oil activity in the area. Working in our favor then was the fact that other countries (such as Chile and the Soviet Union) were also opposed to such exploitation, and that (in the latter instance) we could have resorted to the veto within the consultative meetings of the Treaty, as a means of eliminating that imposed urgency.

Despite the importance of everything that was at stake (and because of what I deem an erroneous policy), the Argentine action regarding this matter suffered, at best from neglect, if not from weakness and apathy. The situation was allowed to progress to the point where, at the 11th Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty, held at Buenos Aires in 1980, there was permitted and accepted a recommendation calling for the establishment (on an urgent basis) of a system to regulate oil exploitation.

I believe, with reason (and without trying to dramatize the situation), that our sovereignty in the area was certainly jeopardized after this agreement. The situation is a compromising one: The current tremendous political and economic pressure brought to bear on Antarctica has necessarily forced us (if we seek and want to protect our interests) to revise the entire policy pursued to date.

There is, nevertheless, a possibility of converting these many difficulties into an affirmative force, if we realize that, in isolation and alone, we shall inevitably lose our sector. And that possibility is one of thinking "big," as Latin Americans. By so doing, we shall observe that South American Antarctica appears with a dimension and a value that are distinct and truly remarkable; because it will appear as a decisive agglutinating factor in this effort to seek common goals. With regard to the Antarctic area, it is also fitting to pool ideas, efforts and policies, noting in this respect that various fraternal countries (such as Chile, Uruguay, Peru and Ecuador) have, at different times, made their rights or interest in Antarctica be known, either officially or unofficially.

This is a concrete opportunity to establish a common South American front, and to create a kind of continental strategy for Antarctica. And it is in that combination of Argentine Antarctic interests, in the framework of an Antarctic policy with Latin American dimensions, that the fundamental basis, on which the indispensable reformulation of our foreign policy must hinge, lies.

2909

CSO: 3010/2323

PERONIST GRONDONA: MODERATES KEY TO FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 3 Sep 82 pp 6-7

[Commentary by Mariano Grondona]

[Text] The analysis of the political situation today can start with one solid premise: We are moving toward the end of a cycle. The slide which the military process began is evident to all and there is a generalized consensus that 1984 is the year during which a cycle will end and another one will start in the political life of the Argentines.

But that is as far as the premise goes, pending further specific statements. We are moving toward the end of a cycle: But "what" cycle? The answer is not that clear. If we were only to say the obvious--that the cycle which in the process of ending is the one that began in 1976--we would at the same time be saying--although without intending to do so, that another, longer and more important cycle is continuing, the cycle of institutional instability which began with the revolution of 6 September 1930.

That long cycle, as a matter of fact, which is the one that is really frustrating us, has produced a succession of "short" cycles which invariably end badly, such as the one that is troubling us now: 1930-1943, 1943-1955, 1955-1958, 1958-1962, 1962-1963, 1963-1966, 1966-1973, 1973-1976, and 1976-1974; if only the "other" short cycle--the ninth, according to our count--in the long cycle of instability is going to end in 1984, then that cycle, instead of being over and done with, will instead be continuing. And the country will definitely continue also with the ups and downs of constitutional periods and military periods and viceversa.

Is this what we want? No. What we want is that the long cycle of 1953-1984 terminate in 1984, along with the short 1976-1984 cycle. This and none other is the issue.

Now, what has to happen so that 1984 will mark the end of two "cycles" instead of just one? Let us state that in a categorical fashion: the election victory of the moderates.

In this sense, the news has so far been encouraging: The moderates still prevail in Peronism, with Robledo, Luder, etc. This might turn out to be decisive. There is not doubt that, in the presidential elections at the end of 1983 or the beginning of 1984, we will be facing a Peronist-radical polarization. This

happened in 1973 and also in 1946, 1952, and even 1958, when Frondizi embodied the Peronist vote with the "pact." The usual thing in these cases was that Peronism--apart from Peron himself or those who were getting his support (Frondizi in 1958, Campora in 1973)--represented political and ideological exaltation while radicalism, with Balbin from 1952 onward, filled the gap of the moderates. Things being thus, the victory of political exaltation, in its time, brought with it the compensation of the military coup with a moderate orientation: In some way, exalted politicians and moderates or military organizers have been "calling" upon each other to assume power through a successive mechanism of popular explosions, and "implosions" (going toward the outside and up and toward the inside and down) which made institutional continuity impossible. That "objective complicity" between the exalted politicians and military interventionism continued in force. For a military coupist nothing would be better than the victory of Saadi in the Peronist "internal" race; in this way he would get the guarantee of the coup d'etat before or after the elections.

The only thing that the mechanism of that strange bipartition between the extremes of Argentine politics, between militarism and exaltation, would destroy would be the election triumph of a moderate party which would not win--as Illia did in 1963 or as Frondizi did "after" 1958--producing such weakness that a further advent of the exalted politicians would become obvious, although that party would not win through its own support so that, after its victory there would be no more political room for the military moderators. It is paradoxical but that is the way it is: The real adversaries of militarism are the moderate politicians because, in spite of their readiness to talk and to coordinate with the military leaders, they are capable of putting together a political system that does not need them; the "objective" allies of militarism are the exalted politicians who, in spite of their antimilitary outbursts, in the end create the conditions so that the frightened middle "call" the military to assume power.

To arrive at the only possible revolutionary result in 1984--the termination, not only of the short cycle but also of the long cycle through the election victory of the moderates--we must, as a prior question, have the victory of the moderates in the Peronist "internal" race. We say this because the electoral physiognomy of radicalism will, in the final analysis, be moderate, as it has always been. It is true that Alfonsin challenges Balbinism. But, apart from the fact that the position of Alfonsin himself reveals guidelines which prevent us from categorizing him regularly as an "exalted" politician--even if he should win in the radical internal race--the clout of the Balbinists would be so strong as to give them important positions in safeguarding the party's unity. With or without Alfonsin's victory, radicalism would then come to resemble the image of moderation.

If Peronism on the other hand recreates the figure of exaltation--with Saadi or with somebody else--then the problem is that it might win because of its greater strength but even in the improbable case that it does not win, it would continue to hang like a damoclean sword over the system's balance, projecting the shadow of the "preventive" anti-Peronist coup starting in 1984, just as the coups of 1962 and 1966 were preventive; their ultimate targets were not Frondizi or Illia but rather the "exalted" Peronists who were making progress.

The internal victory of the moderates within Peronism on the other hand would create powerful reassurance within the system. We would have the following: "Two" big moderate parties at the head of democracy--of course, we must realize that they would be moderate on the basis of originally Peronist and radical positions, not "center" parties--probably with two vigorous minorities, one of them on the left and the other in the center-right, opposing each other on either end. The system would find its point of balance and militarization would turn out to be unforeseeable because it would be unnecessary. One might thus be justified in thinking that the "long" cycle would also come to an end in 1984.

When we have a series of reciprocally incompatible regimes, each of which represents a value necessary for the community--for example, one of them representing order and the other one representing social change--then the only way to "cut" the series short is that bridges be built from one of the regimes--the one that is in power--in other words, diagonal bridges toward the "other" value represented by the opposing regime. In this way it has been possible to build what little stability we have in Latin America. Democracies, such as the one in Venezuela (political and social change), are lasting because they were tough and strong from the very beginning, they were against anarchy and disorder (against the guerrillas under Betancourt and Carlos Andres Perez), leaving the military without any political mission to accomplish. On the other extreme, regimes such as the Brazilian one on the basis of their own value--looking at the military system established by the revolution of 1964 against the anarchy of Goulart--have been offering a broad ingredient of change and political opening through staggering elections which today do not cover only the presidency--which is still in the hands of the army.

By the same token, Videla was able to attempt dialogues in 1978 or 1979 with a view to a gradual, controlled political opening which he did not know how to promote or was unable to promote. We had been urging him to that with detailed plans ever since the "Political Charter" (see the notes devoted to the topic in "Return to Politics," February 1977).

Today, it is up to the politicians to build bridges. If they--who represent political and social change--inject a minimum of order and security into the system, they will not need the military and instability will come to an end. To achieve that, the moderates and the exalted ones must triumph. It does not seem unjustified to conclude these reflections with a formula about the future. The triumph of the moderates in the Peronist internal race will be equivalent to a promise for the end of the long cycle, in other words, a prospect of stability. The internal victory of the exalted politicians would on the other hand be equivalent of the End cycle and would point toward a horizon of military intervention.

It sounds rather dramatic to say it but the fact is that the direction of the country's institutional history is the Peronist internal race. That election will be much more important by far than presidential election.

0058

CSG: 3010/239

HIGHWAY ENGINEER CRITICIZES MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 3 Sep 82 p 56

[Article by Jorge Perales, engineer, secretary, Argentine Chamber of Highway Enterprises]

"Excerpt" the national highway network has a planned length of 300,000 kilometers and only 25,000 are surfaced. The tragic thing is that out of those 25,000 kilometers practically 50 percent are impassable. In other words, half of our highways are in shambles. However, we are without any response, witnessing the destruction of a portion of the national heritage which it took so many years and so much effort to build.

A highway project obviously does not exist for all time and therefore, if there is no maintenance, it will deteriorate. Its useful life can be calculated in terms of 10 years. In other words, between 2,000 and 2,500 kilometers would have to be resurfaced every year to keep the national highway network in passable condition.

As maintenance work is delayed, deterioration becomes more widespread and reaches its high point with the total destruction of the highways which calls for a new surface. This involves the higher overall cost and, moreover, transportation costs go up because roads are becoming progressively impassable.

Since we have been going along for many years without rebuilding those highways, we have now arrived at the present situation with the certain prospect of further deterioration because the budget for the National Highway Directorate for the current year has not been getting the allocations necessary to take care of resurfacing, a job which was already indispensable.

Anybody who uses automotive transportation, either for freight or passengers, becomes convinced that, when he puts gasoline in his vehicle's tank, he is paying extra for highway maintenance and construction. And he does this, without much zeal but at least with the strong conviction that the highway is a service paid for by the user. What would be his reaction if he knew that "indirect tolls" are used for things that have nothing to do with their intended purpose? What would the taxpayers say if they knew that a national highway wound up in such a state of disrepair that you have to run a plow over it in order to use it.

Are the authorities trying to do away with the National Highway Department? We can say that this department will no longer have any work project underway by the middle of 1983. What is going to be done with the existing organization of highway engineers and efficient administrative employees who work in the big building at Maipu 3? Will they simply take care of the work schedules for the drivers and the messengers while the country's paved roads keep crumbling?

Are they also trying to do away with Argentina's highway enterprises? These enterprises, as a matter of fact, can build roads only for the state, both national and provincial, and since provincial highways are in a situation similar to those under the National Highway Department, the enterprises have 80 percent of their capacity standing idle while many of them are 100 percent idle, contributing a rather appreciable percentage to the further deterioration in manpower unemployment.

Since highway machinery is not only very expensive but cannot be used for other purposes (for example, you cannot make candy with highway machinery), this means that the enterprises have no work for their technical cadres, their personnel must be discharged, and the equipment must be simply parked somewhere, becoming obsolete with every passing day, without any prospect of any new works projects.

People frequently recall the situation in the United States in 1932. In assuming the presidency Franklin D. Roosevelt, in a situation similar to Argentina's situation today, immediately launched a gigantic public works program. Why do we not do the same thing? Everybody knows that construction would have an immediate multiplying effect on the majority of industries.

In the Argentine case, we have much idle capacity and we would not have to import any equipment or machinery; the mobilization of the existing machinery would mean jobs for many of the currently unemployed persons since all of the equipment used would be domestically produced. These conditions make this sector one of the key sectors which must sustain the desired revival of the national economy.

We agree with the idea that the fight against inflation is a priority fight in solving the country's economic problem and that, to reduce government investments, we must postpone so-called "Pharaonic projects" and even the construction of new highways. But no economic plan can be considered correct if it does not call for the maintenance of what we have now since its implementation would stop the destruction of national assets.

If a country's wealth declines, that country does not advance, it slides back.

5058

CSO: 3010/2319

PROVINCE HOUSING SHORTAGE REACHES ONE MILLION

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Aug 82 p 23

[Text] La Plata--Buenos Aires Province has a shortage of about a million dwellings, which means that one out of every three families settled in this state does not have decent housing. This has become more serious in the case of the families living in urban slums, 90 percent of which are located in Greater Buenos Aires.

This information stems from Provincial Law No 9857, which put into effect the so-called Solidarity Plan, whereby the Buenos Aires government will promote the formation of consortiums for housing construction.

The whereas clauses of the law also state that the census of urban slums taken in 1981 in the province indicated that 317,000 persons are living in 77,000 dwellings located in those indigent areas, 90 percent of which are in the conurban area.

It was also claimed that the problem "is tending to worsen," and that it is estimated that, during the decade 1981-90, "the annual housing requirements will be about 116,000, of which number private industry and the National Housing Fund plans will be able to supply only 50 percent, and as a result there will be an annual increment in the housing shortage amounting to 58,000 units."

The size of these figures, combined with the inability of large segments of the population to solve their housing needs (the provincial government maintains), owing in particular to the lack of financial mechanisms calling for their capacity to repay, make it necessary for the state to collaborate actively in solving the problem.

With that background, the Buenos Aires government devised the Solidarity Plan, now authorized by Law 9857, which stipulates that the construction of the units be carried out through the consortium method. The measure determines that those consortiums may be formed through direct participation by the application entity (Provincial Housing Institute) or with the intervention of the municipalities, or governmental and private non-profit entities.

The beneficiaries of the housing will be required to contribute to its construction by providing their personal labor and by paying the pertinent installments. The province will supply the necessary land free of charge, while the Housing Institute will provide materials, technical management, social and financial assistance and training for the execution of the construction work.

2909

CSO: 3010/2323

UMA ORGANIZES PROTEST DEMONSTRATION

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, a demonstration was held in front of the Government House, organized by the Union of Argentine Women (UMA), with support from various entities representing neighborhood committees, particularly from suburban districts, and delegations from urban slums. A delegation from UMA was later received by officials of the Ministry of Economy, to whom it delivered a petition signed by 400 housewives, according to the report.

What was sought of the authorities may be summarized in five points: "An immediate reduction and control of food prices; elimination of the VAT on food products and pharmaceuticals; elimination of the indexing on rentals; implementation of the Law on Supply (No 20,680) to prevent the increases established by the leading business forms; and a substantial hike in wages."

Shortly after 1600 hours, groups of women, many with children and carrying empty bags of the type used for buying goods in the markets, and others with saucepans or pan lids making constant noise, as well as some with placards and signs, stationed themselves at the foot of the Belgrano monument facing the Casa Rosada.

Among the legends on the signs one could read: "We want cheap meat, milk and bread"; "end the price hikes"; "enough abuse"; "increase food, cut taxes." As they gathered, until the number amounted to approximately 500, the women and children shouted loudly: "We want to eat"; "cut bread prices."

Heavy Guard

A large number of foreign correspondents filmed or photographed the gathering, and also several tourist buses occasionally passing by the site stopped to allow their occupants to take photos. On that occasion, some police who were not in uniform requested those present to terminate the demonstration. Just then, the participants sang the national anthem, and asked that some official appear. A policeman, also a private one, explained to them that they could not remain on the site any longer; after which he requested the presence of uniformed agents, who formed a cordon to prevent the demonstrators from being able to cross over to the entrance of the Government House.

Petition to the Minister of Economy

Three ladies, Mariana Ibarrola, Isidora P. de Rodriguez and Adela Barbara, who said that they belonged to UMA and to various family welfare and children's committees, left the demonstration and headed for the Ministry of Economy, carrying the petition that we mentioned, addressed to Dr Jose Maria Dagnino Pastore.

They Will Gather Again

Meanwhile, on the sidewalk, most of the attendees continued the noise with the pan covers, loudly voicing their wishes to the effect that "prices must be cut"; and "no more of this." Two UMA leaders, Maria Celia Bidon Chanal and Liliana Mazea, for their part, told the reporters that, "In its 35 years of existence, the entity has had over 10,000 members all over the country." They claimed: "Today's demonstration will be repeated again, because we expect delegations from all districts of the capital and the suburbs to attend other protest demonstrations." They also said that similar gatherings would take place in other cities of the interior, "until the authorities show greater sensitivity for our demands."

One lady, who asked not to be identified, commented: "We do not agree with the ladies who stopped making their purchases on Thursday, because in view of the situation that we are undergoing, no day of the week could be within reach of our budget." She added: "We must repeat the meetings any day of the week."

Arrests

Shortly before the demonstration, the police arrested three persons who claimed to be reporters, when they were unable to prove that they were. One of them said that he worked on the magazine TAL CUAL, and distributed some copies of it free of charge.

Many of those present booed the police, shouting "freedom, freedom," although no measure was taken against them. The demonstration broke up after 1800 hours.

2909

CSO: 3010/2323

DEFENSE MINISTER ISSUES STATEMENT ON LAWLESSNESS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Text] Defense Minister General Fernando Landazabal Reyes has admitted that he is concerned over the wave of insecurity existing in the country with the increased number of peasants, cattle raisers and professionals being assassinated. He has ordered the state's armed and intelligence organizations to intensify investigations to solve crimes.

Likewise, he has authorized the commanders of these forces to put together the largest number of personnel available to capture those responsible.

Yesterday, Landazabal Reyes sent a circular to this effect to the Armed Forces, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Police in which he states that "the minister of defense requires investigations which will provide tangible results in regarding those responsible for the violent deaths which have occurred in the country in the last few months."

He says, therefore, "as a result of those investigations, I expect that, as soon as possible, those who have made crime a profession, with which they try to disrupt the normal functioning of institutions, will be captured and turned over to the republic's justice."

Regarding the existence of clandestine organizations which call themselves "paramilitary" and terrorist and anarchist groups, as well as guerrillas engaged in all kinds of crimes, Landazabal Reyes revealed special measures to be taken to prevent such crimes from recurring. "We are not going to allow these to continue, because it would be like demonstrating that the state's intelligence services are unable to solve them, which not only brings into disrepute institutions, but also creates a distorted image of the government."

He adds that since clandestine organizations exist under different names, it is necessary to bring their members to justice since "it is intolerable for the citizens that such organizations which have made a public declaration of their existence can continue to operate, boasting of their criminal status before a defenseless society."

The text of Landazabal Reyes' declaration is as follows:

"Taking into consideration the bloody events which have been occurring during the last few months in the country, causing alarm among the population, not

only because of the number of victims, but also because of the atrocious and vile manner in which they have been treated, the immediate action of all intelligence services of the nation is necessary to discover the whereabouts of not only the hired killers who may unfortunately exist in the country, but also of those persons or criminal organizations which behind the banner of alleged demands are determined to create panic throughout the entire country.

"The minister of defense--justly worried not only because of the murder of peasants by armed bands who say they represent revolutionary ideas to gain their objectives, but also because of the murder of excellent people who have dedicated their lives to the education of youth in the university classrooms and of those very same people, who because they believe in freedom of thought, have been victims of the cowardly treatment with which the malefactors have cut short their existence--asks that the armed forces and the intelligence services intensify at all levels the search for information to bring the crimes to light and to punish those materially and intellectually responsible.

"There are various clandestine organizations using different names. Their members must be brought to justice since it is becoming intolerable for citizens that organizations which have made public knowledge of their existence can continue to operate, boasting of their criminal status before a defenseless society.

"If an increase in the intelligence services of the armed forces and of the police is required, the commanders are authorized to bring into these organizations the greatest number of people possible in order to comply not only with the wishes of the president of the republic, but also with the moral and political duty which the armed forces and the national police have of bringing before competent judicial authorities those who are sowing panic and unrest.

"The minister of defense requires investigations which will provide tangible results regarding those responsible for the deaths which have occurred in the country in the last 2 months.

"Public opinion is aware of the existence of clandestine organizations calling themselves paramilitary, as well as the operations of minor terrorist and anarchist groups engaged in committing all kinds of crimes, subversive rural and urban organizations and the practice among them of so-called 'executions.' Therefore it is indispensable to take all necessary measures to prevent the crimes I am referring to from being repeated and demonstrating that the State's intelligence services are unable to solve them, which not only brings into disrepute institutions but also creates a distorted image of the government which rules the nation's destiny.

"As a consequence of all this, the minister of defense expects that as soon as possible, as a result of those investigations, those who have made crime a profession with which they try to disrupt the normal functioning of institutions, will be captured and turned over to the republic's justice."

REPORTAGE ON INTERNATIONALIST BRIGADES

Medical Teachers in PDRY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 29 Jul 82 pp 4-5

[Article by Roberto Gili C.: "Internationalist Victory"]

[Text] Aden--An idea that seemed to some utopian or a fantastic and impossible dream has today become a great conquest by an underdeveloped country in revolution and another exemplary lesson of proletarian internationalism. The first 52 doctors trained completely in the PDRY [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen] with the solidarity collaboration of our people have completed their studies. Now there are 500 students in the Yemeni Medical School.

It is true that revolutionaries frequently dream of achievements that they do not get to see in their lifetimes due to the depth and extension of their ideas. Also when they undertake to materialize those dreams with their blood, their hearts and even their lives sometimes, there are no obstacles or difficulties that can stop them.

This fraternal nation in the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula demonstrates this with this achievement which is a true feat of its people, its vanguard, the PSY [Yemeni Socialist Party] and its government. At the same time, it is an undeniable demonstration of the essence and nature of the ties on which the cooperative and fraternal relations between the PDRY and Cuba are based.

There have been 7 years of joint efforts. The sacrifices made are now an important contribution to the fight of the Yemeni revolution against the reality of social and economic underdevelopment, hunger, poor health, illiteracy and poverty that 129 years of British colonialism left the country as an unforgettable memory.

In such an essential sphere as health, for example, this reality meant the inheritance of a somber panorama in which tuberculosis, anemia, bronchopneumonia, gastrointestinal diseases, parasitism, malaria and cholera prevailed in a population of about 2 million inhabitants with only eight doctors. Therefore, the graduation of this first group of professionals from the medical school is a real event because of the importance this has for this hardworking people.

Hattab Honored to Show His School

The work to establish the medical school in Aden, capital of the PDRY, and initiate the first year of the course started at the beginning of 1974 with a visit to the country by a Cuban delegation. It was responsible for drawing up the general project to organize this advanced study center.

In many people's opinion, this was the most difficult year. It required extraordinary efforts from both sides. It materialized that aspiration which very soon, in a matter of days, will mean a substantial growth in the level of medical care here.

In 1974, along with the project, there was also an analysis of the Yemeni education and health systems. Hospitals and other paramedical institutions were visited and in July an agreement was signed between the ministries of public health of the PDRY and Cuba.

As a result of this agreement, seven professionals from that fraternal nation (including three doctors) traveled to our country to be trained as teachers. Since their return, they and the Cuban educators have constituted a firm trench against fatigue and defeatism and a cohesive family as members of the faculty.

What if we wanted to mention one of them in this brief report? All the Cuban teachers we asked answered: "Hattab."

Professor Mohamed Abdulla Hattab, candidate for doctor in medical sciences and first citizen from another country to defend and obtain that advanced scientific degree in Cuba, was one of the great inspirers of this internationalist feat. He never feared the failure of this noble and decisive undertaking that has now culminated successfully. He was not discouraged and, on the contrary, knew how to infect everyone with his optimism and confidence in victory. He and the Cuban teachers devoted innumerable workdays to adapt and clean three wood and zinc buildings for the school's classrooms and laboratories and to make many of the benches and tables at which the unassuming medical students studied. He felt honor, not shame, in showing his school to the WHO regional delegate. He was, as many have called him, the best dean at the Yemeni Medical School.

"He always faced all difficulties, offering us all his support, participating enthusiastically and seriously to meet the needs of the school and confronting all the obstacles in the road with his iron will." This is how Dr Washington Rosell Puig, professor of human anatomy at the Victoria de Giron Advanced Institute of Medical Sciences in Havana City and head of the first Cuban medical teacher brigade to offer its internationalist cooperation to the Yemeni Medical School, remembered him.

This initial group which arrived in September 1975 also included Dr Luis Vicente Garcia Gomez (professor of biochemistry), Dr Fernando Nunez de Villavicencio (psychiatry), Dr Jose Ramon Molina Garcia (histology and embryology), Mario Brizuelas Perez (physics), technician Ines Maria Jorrin (biology) and technician Tania Gonzalez Paneque (biochemistry).

Along with their tasks and responsibilities as teachers, this collective did hard organizational work before and during the first year of the course. This included preparation of the entire material base, adaptation of programs and organization and development of the first scientific seminar for the future Yemeni doctors.

From that time until now, seven Cuban medical teacher brigades have passed through the center. Already 101 specialists from our fatherland have had the honor of giving their knowledge in this way and making valid, almost 14,000 kilometers from their native land, one of the great principles on which the foreign policy of our Communist Party and our revolutionary state is based: proletarian internationalism.

Moments That Will Make History

In these 7 years, characterized by the family-like relations forged between the Yemeni teachers and students and the Cuban teachers who collaborated in this undertaking, there have been many moments in this exemplary project that will make history. One took place on 11 March 1977 when the inspiration and personal recognition of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro reached them on the occasion of his visit to this hospitable nation which, by happy coincidence, is also called /key to the gulf/ [in boldface], the Arabian Gulf.

"We were preparing the second scientific seminar for the students--which was as successful as the first--when we welcomed Fidel to the school," reminisced Dr Washington Rosell. He and Dr Jose Ramon Molina and technician Ines Maria Jorrin extended their missions at the center for 2 years.

"Our commander in chief expressed his admiration for the work that was being done and his satisfaction in its progress many times. Each one of those words multiplied everyone's determination and redoubled our confidence in victory," stressed Rosell Puig. "I remember that he said that he suffered as a man, as a human being, upon learning that there were countries that squandered their resources and were not capable of making even a minimal donation to aid in the construction of hospitals and schools that many underdeveloped nations need so badly. He gave as an example the conditions under which this group of doctors who have now completed their studies was being trained. He also asked about the families of all the teachers, the delay in correspondence, the heat and many other unimaginable details."

Visits to the school by Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the PSY and president of the PDRY, were also a great stimulus for the Cuban internationalists, students and educational and administrative personnel of this new school. He offered personal priority attention and special moral and material support to this important task. Several of the teachers interviewed stated that the Yemeni president on several occasions expressed to them the high esteem that the PSY and the Yemeni Government have for the collaboration that our fatherland gives their nation in different fields, especially the enormous work that the men and women who have represented our people in the medical school have developed.

Residents in the Green House

Starting with the third year of the course, teacher support necessarily expanded. In the first and second years, the Cuban brigades consisted of seven teachers; in the sixth and seventh year, this went up to 22.

The Cuban educators who now live in the green house, the tradition name for the housing that our teachers occupy in the Khormaksar area here in Aden, teach a broad range of subjects. Basic sciences include human anatomy, embryology, histology, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology, parasitology, health statistics and genetics. The clinical areas include surgery, internal medicine, pharmacology, propaedeutics, clinical laboratory, radiology, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, pathological anatomy, psychiatry, hygiene and epidemiology, orthopedics and dermatology.

Like the first brigade, the present one has brought and carried out important joint tasks which meant a high degree of collective and individual responsibility in its members. According to Dr Horacio de la Osa Ramon, head of the Cuban medical teacher group, it "has been responsible with the Yemenis for the training, development and education of the seventh and last year of the course, the internship of the students, tutelage for the papers, graduation and organization of an international scientific meeting." It brilliantly culminated this stage of the epic battle that the Yemeni revolution fights against underdevelopment.

Professor De la Osa said: "Many of these commitments fell to Dr Marta Dalmau Rosell, Dr Marino Rojas Hernandez, Dr Roque Roque Frias, Dr Antonio de Armas and Dr Pedro Muniz. They arrived in the middle of last year especially to fulfill those missions." In addition, they taught hygiene and epidemiology, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics and internal medicine, respectively.

Internationalist Victory!

Dr Marta Dalmau Rosell and Dr Marino Rojas Hernandez are exponents and carriers of three moments in the history of our revolution. She is a member of the legion of exemplary doctors trained in Cuba after the 1959 victory. He is an edifying and inspiring example of those physicians who continued to serve their people when many abandoned them. Both are real proof of the future era that our fatherland lives today, the era of new Cuban medicine.

Indefatigable educational work by our revolution and its inspiring vanguard is inscribed and expanded in their lives as professionals at the service of humanity. Meanness and avarice have disappeared. Today these professionals are here at the foot of these sharp volcanic ridges incrustated in desert sand or in the wild regions of the African jungle; tomorrow they will be who knows where, fighting against poor health and ignorance or cultivating the future in men like these who one day will populate the earth.

There is joy today in this part of the old continent for many reasons. Let us call it what everyone else does: internationalist victory!

Cuban Teachers in First, Seventh Brigades

First Brigade

Dr Washington Rosell Puig
 Dr Luis Vicente Garcia Gomez
 Dr Fernando Nunez de Villavicencio
 Dr Jose R. Molina Garcia
 Mario Brizuelas Perez
 Technician Ines Maria Jorrin
 Technician Tania Gonzalez Paneque

Subjects Taught

Human anatomy
 Biochemistry
 Psychiatry
 Histology and embryology
 Physics
 Biology
 Biochemistry

Seventh Brigade

Dr Libia Albert
 Dr Cristina Alfonso
 Dr Jose Julian Almira
 Dr Alina Alonso
 Dr Antonio de Armas
 Dr Arnaldo Castaneda
 Dr Marta Dalmau
 Dr Bienvenido Delgado
 Dr Rafael Gonzalez
 Dr Luisa Garcia
 Dr Eduardo Gonzalez
 Dr Ernesto Groning
 Dr Esther Jequin
 Dr Aracelis Lantigua
 Dr Dario Martinez
 Dr Pedro Muniz
 Dr Leonardo Oliva
 Dr Horacio de la Osa
 Dr Claudio Palacios
 Dr Caridad Perez
 Dr Marino Rojas
 Dr Roque Roque Frias

Microbiology and parasitology
 Histology and embryology
 Physiology
 Biochemistry
 Pediatrics
 Clinical laboratory
 Hygiene and epidemiology
 Pathological anatomy
 Otolaryngology
 Ophthalmology
 Propaedeutics
 Pharmacology
 Radiology
 Genetics
 Orthopedics
 Internal medicine
 Health statistics
 Human anatomy
 Psychiatry
 Dermatology
 Surgery
 Obstetrics and gynecology

Construction Workers in Libya

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 9 Aug 82 p 6

[Article by Jose Gabriel Guma, special correspondent: "Cuban Construction Workers in the Sahara Desert"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] When the first internationalist construction workers left Havana in 1970 to build hospitals in the infamous Huaylas Alley and other areas affected by the earthquake that leveled Peru, no one perhaps realized that a beautiful movement was born. In the course of a few years, it would make large and complex works of engineering and architecture possible in many distant latitudes of the world.

It was an idea, perhaps bold at that time, whose materialization became feasible due to the development achieved by the Cuban construction sector. Already in the 12th year of the revolution it had a broad range of achievements--highways, bridges, schools, hospitals, factories, etc.--from one end of the island to the other.

Dozens of bridges in Angola, two highways at heights similar to Pico Turquino in Ethiopia, an impressive road in Nicaragua that ties segments bathed by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, a modern hospital in Vietnam, a majestic airport on the sea in Grenada, comfortable housing in Iraq and a highway in the jungle in Guinea are expressions of what the Cuban specialists and workers are capable of successfully executing through collaboration with needier countries and through business contracts with friendly nations that have resources available.

In recent years the construction work of the men and women who are identified in Cuba by their white helmets has reached the Sahara Desert, an ocean of sand in northern Africa that extends from the foothills of the Atlas in the north to the Sudan in the south and from Egypt to the Atlantic.

In the JALPS

In the heart of the Libyan part of the Sahara, two Cuban brigades are building first-rate highways in places surrounded only by sand for a radius of hundreds of kilometers. The temperatures in summer waver between 55 and 70 degrees Centigrade in the sun.

These are not the only projects of the more than 2,500 Caribbean internationalists--including more than a hundred women--in this immense country of 1.76 million square kilometers which less than 15 years ago was under the aegis of King Idris. "Sovereignty belongs to God who delegated it to the king," according to the revoked Constitution. It was one of the poorest nations in the world in spite of its oil. This situation changed dramatically after the officers movement led by Col Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi who, on 1 September 1969, opened a worthy and beautiful era for the Libyan people.

In the new JALPS [Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya], foreign military bases were eliminated, including Wheelus Field, the largest U.S. air base in Africa. Now sovereignty belongs solely to the people. The Cuban construction workers here are building more than 1,000 housing units, 5 schools and other buildings in the Tobruk area, scene of violent battles between the allied forces and the tanks of Hitler and Mussolini during World War II.

In the Sahara

In the Libyan capital of Tripoli, they told me that the next day I would go to the Sahara, name that for many is synonymous with /sahra'/(desert). Someone gave me a warning: "Take clothes...clothes to protect yourself not from the cold but from the intense /harr/(heat)." Body temperature is much lower than that of the atmosphere and clothing protects one against the outside heat.

In an hour, the /tayyara/ (jet) flew over the more than 1,000 kilometers of desert to the city of Sebha located in an oasis. As the airplane left the Mediterranean behind and went into the Sahara, the irregularities of the Libyan land--or rather, the Libyan /rimal/ (sands)--looked like an immense "crushed box" from the air.

Intense light predominated throughout the flight. Not a single cloud was seen. Below there was only sand with its yellow tones and not a thread of /mai/ (water) or a leaf of vegetation. Once in a while, some shallow crevices crossed in the sand like dry riverbeds. When the airplane descended, its shadow was clearly projected on the desert as if it were a large mirror.

Recognition for the work of the Cuban internationalists and the UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises] branch in Libya could be heard at the air terminal in Sebha, a city of 45,000 inhabitants and seat of a province of 180,000 inhabitants. Many of them are workers from Mauritania, Nigeria, Tunisia, Chad, Egypt and other countries.

High esteem for the Cuban construction workers and the Antillean /sharika/ (company) was cited by Mufta Saab, secretary of the General People's Committee in Sebha--top government authority in the province--and the local representatives of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ibrahim Asmed and Abdul Rajman Burka. The Cuban participant was Minister Levi Farah.

Sebha-Ubari Project

After a short time on the road through the desert, we came to a certain point. "Here is where the Cuban /tariq/ (highway) begins," said a Libyan official. In the full /shams/ (sun), he offered preliminary data.

The highway has 180 kilometers--30 in the province of Sebha and 150 in Ubari. They have already given 92 kilometers an intermediate layer of asphalt. The work began in March 1980 and is presently under a brigade of 313 /banna/ (construction workers).

The new artery will be 10.5 meters wide--including 3 meters of walkway--and uses an old highway of 5.25 meters as base. The work is being done with "moving traffic." The construction workers rightly state that this complication forces them not only to coordinate the projects based on the climate but also the movement of vehicles.

Throughout the tour of the road which crosses several small towns, herds of /jamal/ (dromedaries) could be seen. At different points there was isolated /masakin/ (housing) from which the /rijal/ (men) and /atfal/ (children) greeted the /sadic cubi/ (Cuban friends).

Later at the Cuban /mujim/ (camp) in Valle de Urquiba during the required 4-hour break--from 11 am to 3 pm--imposed by the suffocating heat, we met some of the "pioneers" who had to live in tents for months until the present installation, with all the rooms and buildings air conditioned, was erected.

Gustavo Santana, chief of production control of the brigade, has been in construction for 23 years. He and road technician Graciliano Robles Chio, organizing secretary of the union bureau for the project, pointed out the great effort of this veteran collective so that the road progress as scheduled.

Speaking of the difficulties resolutely confronted, they pointed out that the quarries where the stone comes from have a high percentage of quartz. This means great wear and tear on the construction equipment and industrial plants. "The stones seem like iron," they noted. They indicated two rocky hills interposed in the direction of the highway now being demolished. They stated: "This is another challenge which we will conquer."

When we asked about the most outstanding construction workers, many mentioned the name of Freddy Pelegrin Mendez from Industrial Projects Enterprise No. 20 of Santiago de Cuba. He has worked for 3 years in the desert and spends 12 or more hours daily operating his heavy equipment.

Pelegrin has fulfilled four other internationalist missions, some as a soldier and others as a construction worker. He holds the title of National Labor Hero which he earned in 1970 when he was only 20 years old. At that time, he cut 200,000 arrobas of cane with the Turcios Lima Cutters Brigade in Puerto Padre. For that labor feat, he received the trophy for his brigade from the hands of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro during the national ceremony for 26 July in Havana.

The construction workers of the Sebha-Ubari project are making 1982 the year of greatest productive achievements. This meant that the technical-economic plan was fulfilled 103 percent in March, 92 percent in April, 105 percent in May and 113 percent in June! This is even more significant considering that last January and February only 79 percent and 83 percent fulfillment were achieved respectively. A shortage in asphalt was one of the factors that conspired in those months.

Next to one of the 230 minor projects for the highway, the construction workers confirmed through the pages of GRANMA the determination to fulfill the contract when the present year ends. "This is a question of honor," stated the men who, in this latitude, usually wear cloth wrapped around their heads and necks, Arabian style, to defy the sun's rays.

These internationalists hope that their project is the site of the main ceremony in Libya for Construction Workers Day. The Cubans there will celebrate it on 5 December.

Umm al-Aranib to Al-Gatrum Project

Further south is another highway under construction by the Cuban internationalists; it connects Umm al-Aranib with Al-Gatrum.

Of its 150 kilometers in length--in addition to 16 kilometers of access road to the town of Mazdul--120 are already asphalted. This important artery,

the southernmost in Libya, crosses the dunes of the province of Marzuk which is virtually three times larger than Cuba.

The preliminary studies for the new road began in April 1979 and work started in February of the following year. The highway is also two lanes which total 7.5 meters in width with a walkway 3 meters wide. It is relatively straight with only five slight curves.

The special correspondents of GRANMA had the opportunity to directly hear the Libyan opinion of the work of the Cuban construction workers. Al-Bergazi, secretary of the General People's Committee of Marzuk, highly esteemed the effort of some 350 Caribbean internationalists. He stated that the UNECA branch has carried out a project that many considered almost impossible due to the peculiarities of that part of the desert.

When mentioning the major difficulties that had to be confronted and overcome, everyone agreed first on some 22 kilometers of dunes--sand hills--that are blown around by the wind. "They are /jibal/ (mountains) that travel through the /sahil/ (plains)," said the /fallahin/ (peasants) and /'ummal/ (workers) who live in the desert /wahat/ (oasis).

To tour the Sahara, even by highway and in a /sayyara/ (car), is impressive for anyone who comes from the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics. There one discovers that temperatures averaging 55 to 60 degrees Centigrade and occasionally reaching 70 degrees during the /nahar/ (day) can be tolerated without air conditioning. During the /layla/ (night), particularly in winter, the thermometer goes down almost to zero. That is when the /barid/ (cold) penetrates the bones that, hours before, tolerated the great heat.

Inexperience is paid for dearly in the desert. The first thing I did because of the high temperature was lower the car window--a gross error. I immediately had to raise it again. In a few seconds, barbs of heat as if from an oven penetrated the car.

During the hours of travel, someone wearing plastic glasses observed despairingly that the frames had partially lost their hardness. "If the trip lasts 2 hours more, I will end up with the lenses in my hands," he said. On the other hand, metallic frames could barely be touched they were so hot.

Meanwhile, the body remained relatively cool as a result of massive ingestion of cold liquids which provoked intense perspiration and subsequent cooling of the skin.

As we advanced along the asphalt belt, "extensive lakes" could be clearly seen on both sides of the road. They were normal mirages which are not only "captured" by the human eye but by cameras.

Sand partially covered the highway but the wind itself undoes what it has done. A little later, the road was clear again.

One thing that concerned the experienced driver was the /malele/, an expression coined by the Cubans although the origin is unknown. It means /riyah

qawi/ (sandstorms) that have the peculiarity that the sand, due to the speed of the wind, incrusts on the windshields and makes small superficial perforations. After a real /malele/, it is necessary to get a new windshield.

We soon saw an unusual spectacle for us although normal in the desert. In small water reservoirs like pools made by heavy construction equipment, Cuban drivers submerge in their clothes and shoes to cool off. They are completely dry 6 or 7 minutes later.

During a quick stop in the desert--the temperature was more than 60 degrees Centigrade in the sun--we could see small birds fall dead, unable to complete their migratory flight over the Sahara.

Later at one of the three Cuban camps on this highway--8 de Octubre--the construction workers, in the presence of Minister Levi Farah, confirmed their determination to finish the project next December as planned in the contract.

The highway between Umm al-Aranib and Al-Gatrum as well as the Sebha-Ubari highway have been visited by the top Libyan leader, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi. He made an on-site appraisal of the progress of the projects and the quality of the work done.

The construction of both roads in the desert, under engineering conditions very different from those in any other part of the world, constitutes a true challenge and demonstrates the development achieved by the Cuban highway construction branch, according to engineer Antonio Martinez, assistant technical-productive director, and economist Enrique Martinez, production chief of the UNECA branch in Tripoli.

Eastward

Once again in Tripoli, it is necessary to travel more than 1,500 kilometers --more than 1.5 times the distance between Havana and Santiago de Cuba-- eastward along a highway that follows the Mediterranean coast to reach Tobruk near Egypt.

The trip borders the Gulf of Sidra where the Yankee provocation and air attack against Libyan military airplanes took place. It also meant crossing the tillable fringe of the country--where a broad variety of products including pears and apples is obtained--and important cities like Bengasi, an active metropolis with hundreds of thousands of inhabitants. It also stands out in its intensive construction translated into broad avenues and overpasses, all well lighted, and tall modern buildings.

In the city of Tobruk and in five other towns in the east of that northern African country, the Cuban construction workers are building 1,042 housing units, 482 of which are in buildings with seven and eight apartments.

Houses, on the other hand, are built mainly in the towns of Giarboud and Burdia near the Egyptian border. In Qardabah, al-Qar'ah and (Birlashap) smaller groups of housing have been built, all surrounded by high walls in conformity with Arab tradition and to protect the buildings from sand.

Under another contract, the Cuban enterprise is constructing five /madaris/ (schools) in Tobruk, each with 20 classrooms, laboratories, sports areas and other installations.

The Manara school was already handed over, the Sharkis one is finished and the one in Hamra is virtually completed. The other two--Bedot and Al-Saddit--will be completed in the coming weeks so that they can all be used in the new school year in September, according to engineer Angel Gomez Trueba, assistant general director of UNECA.

In addition, they are constructing two modern buildings for the post office and telephone central in Tobruk. They will be characterized by a widespread use of marble and ornamentation on the outside. They are also constructing a group of plain buildings for meetings of the People's General Committees.

The construction force for housing, schools and other projects in eastern JALPS also includes many distinguished internationalists whose selflessness and sense of responsibility and duty have been important factors in the success of the mission.

One is Julian Atta Rubio, of Palestinian parentage, who was taken to live in Jerusalem when he was a few months old. He returned to Cuba a man in 1957, "barely speaking a word of Spanish." Atta joined the guerrilla forces of the Fourth Front in Oriente in 1958. He now acts as interpreter and his knowledge of Cuban-Arab customs and psychology contributes to better communication between both parties in JALPS.

The Cuban-Palestinian said: "Life imposes the language barrier and geographic separation. Here it has been demonstrated that Libyans and Cubans work very well together." He added: "Everyone here values the efforts of the Cubans to fulfill all their obligations in the manner and time stipulated in the contracts."

Libyan Evaluation

Several members of the Libyan cabinet revealed to GRANMA their high esteem for the work that the Cuban construction workers are doing in that north African Arab nation.

Engineer Muhammad Ahmad al-Manqush, minister of housing and urban development, showed his satisfaction in the Cuban presence in JALPS. He indicated: "When the work is based on friendship, the results are always good." He also noted: "In the near future, collaboration will be broader."

Al-Bukhari Salim Hudah, minister of transportation and communications, stated: "We have a very good opinion of the work of the Cuban Construction Enterprise in JALPS. We have decided that the number of projects contracted with Cuba will increase."

Muhammad Abdullah al-Mabruk, minister of labor, considered an increase in the number of Cuban specialists and workers in Libyan territory appropriate. He

also agreed: "The Cuban Construction Enterprise is working very well and the work results are good." As he emphasized, this was despite the difficult conditions under which the projects must be carried out.

Man, Basic Resource

Cuba has more than 270,000 construction workers; before 1959, the figure was about 30,000. Their advance in a dozen countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean--about 8,000 workers at this time--demonstrates once more that man is the basic resource of our revolution.

The projects that Cuba carries out abroad under business contracts have created a new source of income for the country. Although it is still in the initial stage--3 years is a short period in this field--growth can already be seen. This may turn out well for the national economy.

The nations in which the Cuban construction workers work request greater participation by Antillean enterprises in their plans. The economic benefits depend directly on the increased efficiency of UNECA and all the organs participating in the solution of tasks stipulated in the project contracts.

The initial prestige of the work done by Cuba abroad, as a consequence of the high level of construction technology and finished quality, must continue to increase. This motto predominates in the work of the Cuban construction workers in JALPS.

7717
CSO: 3010/2201

PAST 30 YEARS OF U.S.-PUERTO RICAN RELATIONS NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 6 Aug 82 No 32 pp 84-89

[Article by Talia Carol: "30 Years As an Associated Free State"]

[Text] It was on a 25 July. The very first light of dawn was visible on the Caribbean Sea. Guanica, a lovely village located opposite a broad bay, in south-eastern Puerto Rico, was still sleeping, when 14 American warships approached its coasts. Only one went down the port channel: the "Gloucester." The latter had been the pleasure yacht of the United States multimillionaire, J. Pierpont Morgan. Twenty-eight Yankee Marines landed.

They went ashore on a small dock opposite the home of a Spaniard, who was a petty officer, and there raised the American flag for the first time.

Shortly thereafter, the bullets suddenly whizzed by. Guanica lacked a garrison and defense, but 11 volunteer cavalry guerrilla fighters arrived to counter the invasion. Hiding behind the last houses, and responding with rifles and shotguns, they attempted to drive back the enemy squad.

The firing did not last long. The defenders were forced to withdraw. The landing continued progressively. American Army troops replaced the Marines.

The next day, Spanish troops arrived, and attacked at dawn. The battle was hard-fought on the plain, although completely unequal. Other fighting followed, as the Yankee troops advanced. There were confrontations in Lomas de Silva, Hormigueros, Guasin, San Sebastian, Lares and Coamo.

Nineteen days later, when the Americans were stopped in the trenches at Asomante, the order for surrender arrived from Spain. It had lost the war with the United States in the Philippines and Cuba. The Spaniards began preparing to leave the island.

However, Puerto Rico had already achieved autonomy on exactly 12 February of that same year: 1898. It had its own currency; although without having definitively freed itself from the Spanish yoke, it had attained more autonomy than it has now with the United States' presence on its territory. Something different was promised by the invading general, Nelson A. Miles, who pledged "liberty, progress and the blessings of the institutions of the democratic United States of America."

The Autonomous Puerto Rican Cabinet resigned in plenary session, and was replaced by four departments, created by the military government. The ordinances of the American army of occupation were the laws of Puerto Rico from then on. On 10 December 1898, through the Treaty of Paris, Spain granted the United States the territory of Puerto Rico as spoils of war.

The structure of politico-legal domination has been imposed by three laws of the United States Congress. The first one was the Foraker Act, of 1900, which established a Yankee civilian government; the second was the Jones Act, of 1917, which forced American citizenship on the Puerto Rican people, for the purpose of taking Puerto Rican soldiers for the United States Army, subjecting them to the most dangerous outposts. The third law was the so-called Law 600, promulgated on 3 July 1950.

In 1950, as a result of the growing spirit of nationalist and independence-oriented struggle, which began to be created in the 1930's, the American government allowed the by now Puerto Rican colonialist administrators to draft a "constitution" which could not contradict the American Constitution nor the essential terms of the laws imposed on the country in the slightest degree. When the document was submitted to Congress in Washington, the latter forced several amendments, including one that stipulated that this "constitution" could only be amended with the consent of the United States Congress.

On 25 July 1952, 54 years after the invader's flag was raised in that country, the colonial domination was institutionalized, with the name "Associated Free State."

With the change, Washington's only purpose was to cloak with a veil the Yankee colony, so as to pass it off to the world as an autonomous territory, on which it would not have to report annually to the United Nations, because it was assumed to have by then have dropped its colonial status.

To carry out the fraud, the United States used all the power of the correlation of forces that favored it internationally, and through a resolution, No 748 (VIII) of the General Assembly, dated 27 November 1953, the despicable political monstrosity was legalized.

Federal Relations Law

Although "Estado Libre Asociado" is easily translated into English ("Associated Free State"), this term has never been applied by the United States, because the Yankee government officials are aware of the fact that this designation is not in keeping with the Puerto Rican reality; since there is no such state, no such freedom and no such association. In all circumstances wherein Washington has to refer to the status of Puerto Rico, it mentions it with the ambiguous title "Commonwealth of Puerto Rico," which means something like an "entity" or "community" of Puerto Rico.

The Federal Relations Law, which governs this special status between Puerto Rico and the United States, does not make any essential change in the previous laws. The United States Government keeps the island as its property, and holds absolute sovereignty over it.

This law establishes and determines the authority of the United States Government over the Puerto Rican people, something which is a bloody mockery of the principle of self-determination of peoples, and a clearcut example of classic colonialism. Although it is true that the "new" status was put to a referendum, the majority of the people were deceived, being told merely that Puerto Rico would be a "free state" on an equal legal footing with the United States, and associated in the same way. Nevertheless, as the Harvard University expert in constitutional law, Prof Carl J. Friedrid, pointed out, this ratification was equivalent to a general, and not specific consent.

Moreover, other specialists in the field claim that to lead the voters to this ratification constituted a violation of the American constitutional principle which repudiates the validity of legislation that goes into effect retroactively; because this law covers all the past and future American laws applied to Puerto Rico.

The Federal Relations Law is infested with abuses of colonial power. Although Section V of it extends American citizenship to Puerto Rico, it does not define the rights, privileges or responsibilities inherent therein. The most controversial section is No IX. It states that all the American laws "which are not inapplicable locally" will be in effect in Puerto Rico. The inapplicability is established by the American Congress. This is the section which grants the Caribbean island the alleged fiscal autonomy that is constantly evaded by interpretations made of administrative regulations by the Treasury Department in Washington.

All judicial proceedings in Puerto Rico are brought in the name of the "President of the United States of America," according to the provisions of Section IX of the law. One of the most grossly colonial impositions is the one in Section XII, which orders the government of Puerto Rico to submit regular reports, in the English language, to the U.S. Department of Interior. The intent of this provision, which leaves no doubt about "the subordinate relationship of the colony's government with that of the mother country," is obvious of itself.

Section XXXVII contains regulations for the powers of the Puerto Rican Legislative Assembly to pass laws that are not at odds with those passed by the American Congress. The oppressive, colonial nature of this ruling conflicts with the principle of self-determination which the United States proclaims aloud every year in the United Nations as being exercised by the Puerto Rican people.

Seven sections deal with the Federal Court. They order, among other things, that English be the working and operating language of the court. But the language of Puerto Rico is Spanish. The Puerto Ricans are not bilingual people; they do not speak nor understand English. But when they violate some federal law, they have to appear before a court in which a language which most people do not understand is spoken.

This law was not explicitly indicated to the people in the referendum to which it was subjected. So, the electors voted for something that they did know about, were not familiar with and did not understand.

The Congress of the United States exercises supreme jurisdiction and authority over the following matters: military service, customs, declarations of war,

foreign relations, currency, freightage and shipping, aviation, aerospace, nationality and citizenship, emigration and immigration, federal crimes and penalties, laws of the sea, coast guard, constitutionality of the laws, jurisdiction of treaties, foreign trade, patents, U.S. Army and Navy installations, laws on wages and labor relations, radio and television, agriculture, ports and airports, land and subsoil, minerals and mines, highways, social security programs, postal system, maritime laws and many others.

To protect its politico-legal interests, Washington has developed a spy network. This system is also used to protect the economic interests and the entire ideological assimilation structure that has been imposed. The three branches of the armed forces have their own espionage services, plus the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which also performs functions involving subversion, sabotage and provocation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Secret Service also operate on the island, especially in the prosecution and fabrication of cases relating to independence advocates and socialists. All these agencies directly regulate, control and advise the local police and national guard.

Economic Dependence

At the beginning of the American invasion, the first attack on the country's economy was the change from Puerto Rican to United States currency, with a 40 percent discount, thus stealing more than a third of the occupied country's wealth.

Agriculture was the economic resource. The Puerto Rican farmers owned 93 percent of the ranches and farms. Coffee was grown on 41 percent, sugar cane on 15 percent, tobacco on 1 percent and edible fruit and forage on 32 percent.

At the turn of the century, the United States needed sugar. The American bourgeoisie turned Puerto Rico into a vast cane plantation. They purchased the small individual farms at low prices, taking advantage of the chaotic economic situation stemming from the change in currency, converting the rural landscape into one with large estates owned by Americans. Coffee was abandoned and the European market for that product, which had been the leading one on the island, was lost.

As a result of this situation, the exodus of farmers began to the cities and towns, where the slums grew, with an abandoned population. Emigration from the center of the mountains to the lowlands on the coastal belt covered with cane plantations became widespread.

The Yankee capitalists concerned themselves with directing the economy toward the production of raw materials, which they shipped to the United States. Soon, Puerto Rico became what it is today: a producer of what it does not consume, and a consumer of what it does not produce. The country was left dependent on the American market for its consumption, purchasing manufactured products at high prices, while the United States monopolies extracted the wealth of its raw materials. After World War II, the emigration of unemployed farmers to the United States increased progressively. There, they are employed in rural areas under subhuman conditions, and in the cities as cheap labor, on jobs that the Americans reject. In this way, the problem of an eruption of the oppressed class has been "solved" for the Yankee mother country.

When the Puerto Rican creator of the so-called Commonwealth (ELA), Luis Munoz Marin, in collusion with Washington, became leader of the country in its new status, there began "Operation Bootstrap," an industrial economic promotion program wherein the American investors were offered a total tax exemption and the incentive of a cheap labor force, unprotected by the management unions or those controlled by the government apparatus. The colony was converted into a light manufacturing center, where the capital invested was slight and the corporations' profits tripled in comparison with those in the United States.

Textiles, clothing, leather and other products of light industry were produced; and, at the same time, the supermarket and department store chains came into existence. The cost of living rose to the level in the state with the highest cost in the United States, and the Puerto Ricans earned salaries and wages on the level of the poorest state in the mother country.

As a result of the reduction of oil in the United States, and the attraction of the benefits of investing in Puerto Rico where, in addition to the aforementioned advantages, there was included construction of the infrastructure by the government, the oil multinationals began establishing themselves in Puerto Rican territory. That was in the mid-70's. These new industries are typified by their high degree of automation, and hence the jobs are insignificant in comparison with the capital invested, without any benefit for the growing unemployment in the colony. The same thing holds true for the pharmaceutical industry which, along with the oil industry, arrived in the island to pollute the atmosphere, without producing any benefit for the population.

Puerto Rico is the United States' fourth-ranking market in the entire world, second after Canada in the Western Hemisphere. Eighty percent of the food that it consumes is purchased from the mother country, and shipped on American vessels, which charge the highest freight prices in the world. It is an economy that operates with a colonial capitalist system, accompanied by a very high degree of unemployment, permanent inflation and an unjust distribution of income. Recent studies show that the wealthiest 20 percent of the population receives over 51 percent of the personal income, while the poorest 20 percent receives only 5 percent. Puerto Rico survives thanks to the billions of dollars in subsidies given to it by the American taxpayers. How long can this situation be tolerated?

Puerto Rico and the United Nations

In 1960, the United Nations passed Resolution 1514 (XV), in which the General Assembly "solemnly proclaims the need for putting an end, rapidly and unconditionally, to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations"; and this is asserted on the basis of the conviction that "all peoples have an inalienable right to absolute freedom, the exercise of their sovereignty and the integrity of their national territory." The resolution adds: "In all the remaining territories which have not yet achieved their independence, immediate measures must be adopted to transfer all the powers to the people of those territories, without conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed desire and rights, and without regard for race, creed or color, to enable them to enjoy absolute freedom and independence."

The effect of this resolution is, unquestionably, that, in the United Nations' view, the only way of putting an end to colonialism is by achieving independence, and Puerto Rico has not yet obtained its independence; which is why, from that time onward, it became one of the colonies yet to be emancipated.

When he abstained from voting on this resolution, the United States' delegate to the UN, Mr Wadsworth, gave the following explanation: "The resolution is markedly inclined toward independence as the only acceptable goal. We see this reflected in its title, and in many of its terms. For example, the next to last paragraph in the preamble speaks about the 'inalienable right' of all peoples to their complete freedom and independence, which appears to indicate a complete independence in all instances."

The Puerto Rican patriotic forces, headed by the Pro-Independence Movement (now the Puerto Rican Socialist Party), immediately addressed the UN to demand that their country be included as a territory which had not yet attained its independence, and which, therefore, clearly came under the definition of a colony that the supreme agency had decided upon.

As was to be expected, the American government and its allies opposed the Puerto Ricans' demand. They argued that the case of Puerto Rico had already been decided on the basis of Resolution 748 (VIII) of 1953. From 1960 to the present, Washington has upheld its opposition to discussing the case of its colony in that agency, based upon that clever fraud.

With a simple analysis, one discovers the weakness of the argument that they put forth. Nowhere in Resolution 748 is there recognition for Puerto Rico's independence.

Harking back to 1953, when there was a discussion in the UN General Assembly of the new status given to the colony by the United States, an intense debate arose, and the Assembly was completely divided, which forced the American ambassador to the agency, then Henry Cabot Lodge, to make the following statement: "I am authorized to say, on behalf of the president of the United States, that if the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico at any time passes a resolution in favor of a more complete, or even absolute independence, he will recommend to the Congress the granting of that independence. The president also wishes to say that, in such an event, he would be pleased to see Puerto Rico's adherence to the Treaty of Rio de Janeiro and the United Nations Charter."

The head of the American delegation clearly recognized that it had not achieved its independence with the Associated Free State. Also by his statement, he left no doubt of the fact that the president of the United States could only recommend Puerto Rican independence to the Congress in Washington, where the sovereignty over the island really lies, by virtue of Article IV of the American Constitution, which grants Congress the power to administer the territories under that country's control.

Despite the fact that the correlation of forces in the United Nations favored the United States overwhelmingly, the latter only managed to obtain 26 votes in its favor, while 16 members voted negatively and 18 abstained, after which their

pangs of conscience subsided, when they heard the promise from the American president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, expressed through his ambassador.

However, less than 6 months later, on 23 May 1959, a petition for a modest amount of autonomy approved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico was filed with the United States Congress in a bill (H.R. 5916). Despite the solemn promise made to the United Nations by President Eisenhower, the legislative measure was shelved in Congress.

After a year in which, at the proposal of the Soviet Union, the General Assembly, in 1960, passed Resolution 1514 (XV), which became a Magna Carta for decolonization, a special committee was set up, the specific function of which was the implementation of the resolution. It is known as the Committee of 24, because of the number of members founding it, or the Decolonization Committee. Year after year, it has striven persistently to have the case of Puerto Rico considered, always with opposition from Washington and its allies, or those used by it, through economic pressure.

It was not until 1967 that the special committee was in a position to accept the petition of the Puerto Rican patriots. Despite this, the heated debate, wherein the tricks planned in the halls of the supreme international agency by the American delegation became evident, did not allow for an agreement; and hence consideration of the matter was postponed indefinitely. Four years later, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba requested that the case of Puerto Rico be included on the General Assembly's agenda. The proposal was rejected.

In August 1972, the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries, in Georgetown, Guyana, passed a resolution in which it forcefully reiterated to the UN Decolonization Committee that it should take up the Puerto Rican case. On 28 August of that year, this committee passed a resolution acknowledging the island's inalienable right to independence and self-determination, based on Resolution 1514 (XV). The United States and its servants in Puerto Rico were indignant. The Associated Free State had lost the veil which cloaked it. The colonial monstrosity was bared to the eyes of the world.

On 30 August 1973, the committee reaffirmed the previous year's resolution, and demanded that the United States Government honor Puerto Rico's inalienable right to self-determination and independence, and refrain from acting against the rights of that people. In the debate, the voice of the Puerto Ricans was heard for the first time, in the persons of the leaders Juan Mari Bras and Ruben Berrios, secretary-general of the Pro-Independence Movement, and head of the Independence Party, respectively. Up until that time, they had not been allowed physical access to the international premises. It was the government of the heroic Salvador Allende that took action to bring about the presence of the Puerto Rican patriots at the debates.

Surmounting all the devices put in motion by the American government, on 14 December 1973, the General Assembly passed a resolution which ratified its committee's report.

During 1974, there was no resolution relating to the case of Puerto Rico. On 15 August 1975, the committee discussed a Cuban proposal wherein the 1972 and 1973

resolutions were reaffirmed. Every year, the Yankee diplomats set in motion all their expedients for pressure on the committee's member nations. One instance that may serve as an example is the one which occurred with Tanzania. The United States Embassy in that country sent a letter to this government, dated 29 August 1975, which stated, in part:

"The United States Government emphatically declares that a vote in favor of the Cuban resolution would add the government of the United Republic of Tanzania to three countries with which the United States Government does not maintain relations (Congo, Cuba and Iraq), with two of our leading communist adversaries (USSR and China) and with two states which unfailingly follow Moscow's foreign policy line (Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria), in support of a resolution that constitutes a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the United States."

Tanzania published and repudiated the arrogant admonition, responding: "The letter in question also contains a veiled threat, because it gives the impression that something could happen to Tanzania or its nationals if it does not consent.... Tanzania cannot tolerate such nonsense."

In 1976, the Decolonization Committee made a decision, by consensus, reiterating the United Nations' jurisdiction over the case of Puerto Rico. In 1977, the committee decided to postpone consideration of the matter until 1978. It was in the latter year that the United States suffered a tremendous defeat, when the General Assembly, after reaffirming this people's right to independence and self-determination, demanded of Washington the transfer of powers to the Puerto Rican people, called for release of the political prisoners on the island and denounced the repression and persecution of those favoring independence.

During 1979 and 1980, the discussion of the Puerto Rican case continued in the committee. In 1981, on 1 December, the General Assembly passed a resolution whereby it ratified the Decolonization Committee's annual report, including the resolution passed by that committee on 20 August of that year on the colonial status of Puerto Rico. In that resolution, the committee requested that the General Assembly put the discussion of the case on its 1982 work agenda, as an independent matter.

From that time onward, throughout this entire year, the Yankees have put their diplomatic slaves in motion in an attempt to prevent the separate discussion of the case in the General Assembly this year.

Upon being questioned by a reporter on the reason that his government was not applying diplomatic flexibility to the case of Puerto Rico, a State Department official replied: "Puerto Rico is something totally different from the rest of the Caribbean. In this case, it is not a matter of an uninhabited plot of land in the middle of a desert. There are naval bases, corporations, and vast economic and military interests there and, besides, Puerto Rico is ours!"

A Dilemma for the U.S.

This troublesome and increasingly pressing situation of the Puerto Rican issue in the United Nations (which, although Washington is used to evading laws, has dimmed

the image that it seeks to give of itself to the world) has forced the mother country to legalize its colonialism in some way. Several years ago, it undertook, for this purpose, to investigate what the best solution might be and, at worst, what the available solutions are. It found only two: annexation or independence; in other words, the 51st state of the Union, or a neo-republic, subjugated like so many others to the investments of the Yankee multinationals, with the maintenance of the military domination that it has over this stronghold of the Caribbean.

In 1976, it apparently decided on annexation. On 14 January of that year, when the then President Gerald Ford was about to turn over his office to James Carter, the outgoing president took the first step toward a proposal that he had made on 31 December of the previous year, to convert Puerto Rico into a federated state of the Union. Ford sent a bill to the American Congress calling for the annexation of the island in a period of from 3 to 6 years. Ford's action was followed by Carter's endorsement and, subsequently, by the backing of the current president, Ronald Reagan.

However, something has gone wrong, both in the United States and in Puerto Rico, in the attainment of this goal. There are sectors of the American capitalist bourgeoisie opposed to having the Puerto Ricans become part of their country, who prefer that the current status be maintained; although it would have to be masked again. Moreover, in Puerto Rico, the plans have gone badly for the Yankees, because Governor Carlos Romero Barcelo, an advocate of statehood, did not win the 1980 elections by an overwhelming majority, as Washington wanted, but rather by about 3,000 fraudulent votes, and his defeat is predictable in the next elections. Annexation is opposed not only by those favoring independence, but also by the ELA [Commonwealth] autonomists, forming a majority opposition throughout the entire colony.

What are we to do? is the question asked by the mother country's sensible people. On 25 July of this year, the Associated Free State reached its 30th anniversary of mistreatment and impoverishment.

2909

CSO: 3010/2289

GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES DOLLAR MARKET LIBERALIZATION

BCR Explains Measure

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 10 Aug 82 pp 3, 11

[Text] A liberalization in the exchange market for dollars has been authorized in our country. It will permit a greater number of people to have access to this money, it was learned at the Central Reserve Bank (BCR) yesterday.

Previously this market has been limited to persons having current accounts in dollars in banks of our system. In general, these persons have been companies or particular individuals transferring dollars from one account to another, according to the BCR.

At the present time there no longer is any obligation for a person to have an account in the Central Reserve Bank [in order to procure dollars under the new system]. This was explained to us and the following example was cited: If one person currently has an account in dollars with the Commercial Agricultural Bank and another person without such an account needs dollars and wants to buy them, then only the seller has to apply to the BCR for the necessary permit for use of the money, doing so on the appropriate form.

Then the owner of the current account will be able to sell to the first party the amount in dollars which the latter requires, at a price which the seller will fix this is according to what we were told by the BCR.

Along with what has been previously explained, it was also noted that the liberalization measure makes possible an exchange market in dollars. Also, as was said before, this offers more people greater access to this market, the BCR official news source pointed out.

Another example of these monetary transactions occurs in the case of importers and exporters for whom the BCR has opened current accounts in dollars. These accounts, under the new monetary policy of the bank, can be used to sell dollars to persons who need them, in all cases subject to the required approval of the BCR upon presentation of the proper justification stating the purpose for such sale, the spokesmen concluded.

Additional Clarification

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Aug 82 pp 3, 24

[Text] Yesterday the Central Reserve Bank gave out additional information regarding the new exchange regulations which came into effect on 9 August.

Referring to a news item which appeared yesterday in LA PRENSA GRAFICA under the headline "Liberalization in the Dollar Market," the president of the BCR, Alberto Benitez Bonilla, stated that in order to avoid confusion over the agreement adopted by the country's monetary authorities, the bank wanted to provide additional information regarding the regulations.

Benitez Bonilla also informed us that the commercial banks and the mortgage institution had been authorized to buy and sell U.S. dollars in the exchange market. He said this regulation had been adopted by the Monetary Board "for the purpose of broadening the exchange liberalization measures put into effect in the month of January of the current year."

In this connection he also outlined the procedure the banks will follow in acquiring dollars which will be originating from the following sources:

- (a) Money received from exports of non-traditional products to countries outside of the Central American area and Panama.
- (b) Remittances from abroad to families here.
- (c) Salaries and commissions for personal services and other income of the same type.
- (d) Special deposit accounts in foreign currency which the depositors sell.
- (e) Interbank sales of foreign currency on the exchange market.

Dollars which the banks will obtain from the above mentioned sources can then be sold for the following purposes:

- (a) Payments in foreign exchange which have been previously authorized by the Exchange Control Department of the Central Bank. These payments will include the following types: insurance and reinsurance payments, loans and investments, bonuses and dividends.
- (b) Payments for importation of goods and services.
- (c) Sales to a natural or juridical person of up to U.S. \$2,000 per month to cover costs of travel, family assistance, scholarships and other support for students, medical and hospital care, insurance policy premiums and other personal expenses.

The banks of our system have received detailed, specific instructions in regard to administering these regulations.

9972

CSO: 3010/2260

LABOR MINISTER PREDICTS HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1983

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Aug 82 p 4

[Text] A total of approximately 800,000 Guatemalans will be unemployed during the coming year, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Otto Palma Figueroa stated to the press yesterday.

Mr Palma feels that this phenomenon is worsening in the country and that the factors bringing about this increase in the number of unemployed are many.

He recalled that at the last assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, the representatives of the countries that participated stated that the unemployment has during the last few years become a heavy scourge on mankind, particularly in the underdeveloped nations.

He went on to state that, according to 1970 statistics, Guatemala's labor force is made up of 2.2 million, and unemployment was 4.8 percent.

It has been projected that during 1983, open unemployment will reach 10 percent, but if the problems of the underemployed are taken into account, it will increase to 40 percent.

The labor force is growing by 3.2 percent, but the rate of new jobs being created is 1.4 percent. According to these studies, 800,000 are expected to be unemployed in 1983.

The Government's Immediate Plans

Minister Palma Figueroa emphasized that these problems are growing worse because of the worldwide economic recession. That is why the public and private sectors need to work together to reinvest in the country so that new businesses--new job opportunities--will be created.

He pointed out that, with regard to the state, crash programs designed to employ a large number of Guatemalans will be started. Reforestation, low income housing construction, highway and other programs will be set in motion that will help stem the rising tide of unemployment.

Economic Planning Employees Laid-off

When asked about the 150 people recently laid-off in economic planning, the head of the Labor Ministry stated that a study is being carried out to relocate those employees in other departments where they might be needed.

Those who cannot be absorbed again by the government will have their benefits, such as worker's compensation, vacation pay, and percentage holiday bonuses, canceled.

As the public is already aware, since General Rios Montt came to power, many state employees have been discharged, because, according to the government, there is no money to pay their wages.

The national budget was recently reduced by 20 percent, which brought about a general cutback in the amounts allocated to the different budget entries of the government's departments.

9983

CSO: 3010/2246

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO COUNTERACT UNEMPLOYMENT

Guatemala EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 19 Aug 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] The government is searching for adequate means to counteract unemployment in the country, the president's undersecretary of public relations, journalist Rafael Escobar Arguello, stated today.

He added that some of the media twisted the statements made on this pressing problem yesterday by the labor and social welfare minister. He added that the statement published that an unemployment rate of on the order of 800,000 people is expected for next year is inaccurate.

Mr Escobar Arguello said that if there indeed is an economically active labor force of 2 million workers and if the unemployment rate is really 8 percent, that would mean 160,000 out of work, and not 800,000, as was published.

The government added that it is giving and will give a greater fillip to the construction industry, to which end it will set up a \$17-million line of credit that will be channeled through private banks exclusively for this purpose. He added that in this manner, a way will be sought to alleviate the severe housing shortage that will at the same time provide work for thousands of qualified workers, such as masons, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and others.

The undersecretary went on to say that once that climate of confidence is created, the cooperation of the private sectors is expected, which has the objective of creating new job opportunities. He added that the nation's next general budget and the one currently under discussion by the cabinet will give a hand to infrastructure works that will benefit the people as a whole, and not government bureaucracy, since bureaucratic hiring will be frozen.

9983

CSO: 3010/2246

FIRST SIDERMEX OVERSEAS STEEL SALES IN THREE YEARS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Aug 82 p 6 (Financial Section)

[Text] In competition with the technologically most advanced steel mills in the world, SIDERMEX, Mexican Iron and Steel Company, has obtained contracts to supply steel products to Middle Eastern and Central American countries and to the United States for more than \$120 million.

After more than 3 years without making sales abroad--primarily due to the need to meet the growing domestic demand--SIDERMEX has again begun to export for the purpose of obtaining foreign exchange to help alleviate the nation's financial situation.

To date, SICARTSA (Lazaro Cardenas-Las Truchas Iron and Steel Company) and Mexican Steel Mills, Inc. [AHMSA], enterprises belonging to SIDERMEX, have shipped steel products worth more than \$85 million to various parts of the world.

Almost the entire production of the SICARTSA steel mill for the rest of this year has been sold abroad.

The main export products are wire, steel rods, steel fencing, rolled steel, steel elbows, tubing plates, beams, conduits and byproducts such as tar, coke and so forth obtained from the various steel mills of the SIDERMEX group.

Besides providing the nation with large amounts of foreign exchange, the export of steel and iron products will help reduce stockpiles which have accumulated due to the drop in domestic demand.

SIDERMEX products have had a rapid and favorable reception on the foreign market since AHMSA and SICARTSA have repeatedly fully met international technical specifications in the preparation of their products.

SIDERMEX fully satisfies the requirements imposed by foreign buyers which in some cases are different from the specifications of the domestic market. Since the parity of our currency changed, our national steel industry is able to export large quantities of Mexican steel at competitive prices on the world market.

The planned volume of exports by SIDERMEX is at present about 300,000 tons. Most of this is shipped from the Lazaro Cardenas, Michoacan, from which a ship left today for the Middle East with a total of 8,000 tons of rough steels.

Besides increasing our role in the foreign market, SIDERMEX will reprogram some of its mills to manufacture certain steel products which traditionally were imported from various countries because they were not made in Mexico or because our production was insufficient. It is estimated, to begin with, that this replacement of imports will amount to about 300,000 tons.

9204

CSO: 3010/2276

PEASANTS RETAKE LANDS IN PUEBLA

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Aug 82 p 4

[Article by Gonzalo del Villar]

[Text] Deputy Heberto Calderon, president of the National Federation of the National Confederation of Small Landowners of Puebla, CNPP, said that the peasants who were evicted from Pantepec, Puebla, retook those lands yesterday. It is feared that there will be another confrontation--during the previous one there were 27 deaths.

The CNPP leader, who was interviewed during the Fifth CNPP Regular National Assembly, said that the peasant group "is large and is armed." He said the invasion was led by the PPS, Popular Socialist Party; the PST, the Socialist Workers Party; and the PSUM, the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico.

Herberto Calderon said that about 400 hectares were invaded, affecting about 10 small landowners. He added, "We small landowners have always respected other people in every way. It is horrible that such an improbable group of invaders should disturb and provoke further slayings in which we small landowners are not in any way involved."

Recalling the events which took place 2 months ago in Pantepec during which 27 peasants lost their lives, he said, "the 12 persons who were arrested for those events were not the ones who were really guilty." He reported that all of them have been set free by Guillermo Jimenez Morales, the state governor, since they were not found to be guilty. "In the jail were 80-year old persons who can just manage to keep body and soul together."

Calderon said later that "the opposition parties are the ones that are really guilty of everything that has happened in Pantepec since they, for propaganda purposes, deceive the peasants, leading them to believe that the land belongs to them. Besides, that is cattle land which cannot be used for growing foodstuffs."

He then said that Governor Jimenez Morales promised the small landowners that he will respect their property in accordance with the law "and will not permit invaders to take our lands from us."

He concluded by saying that Jimenez Morales "has been informed" of the new invasion in Pantepec and that "he will know how to handle the situation." "It is not right for professional agitators to misinform the peasants and deceive them so that they invade lands that are not theirs. If something happens in Pantepec, we will request that they be given a punishment that will serve as an example."

The official spokesmen of the political parties accused of provoking the invasion in Puebla (PSUM, PST and PPS) categorically denied that they had participated in any way in these actions and said that they did not know whether or not lands had been invaded in that state.

9204

CSO: 3010/2276

CHURCH CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Aug 82 p 4

[Text] The Mexican Catholic Church has a shortage of more than 25,000 priests. Therefore, the office of the archbishop is carrying on a campaign in favor of the priestly vocation.

According to the figures in the ecclesiastical statistical yearbook, there are 10,000 priests in Mexico. This figure includes all the diocesan priests--a little over 7,000 of whom are directly under the bishops--and the clergy belonging to specific orders.

In the opinion of clergyman Francisco Ramirez Meza, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Communication Media, the ideal workload for a priest is 2,000 inhabitants, "although in the countryside, due to the large distances and the dispersion of the population, more would be needed."

A pamphlet published by the office of the archbishop as a guide to promote the priestly as well as the monastic vocations sets forth the need to "lead young people to think of the possibility that they themselves might be called to the priesthood" and the need for them to be able "to appreciate the value of the priestly ministry within the community." The method he suggested is the formation of study groups of 5 to 7 children or adolescents where the moderator should integrate and complement the discussions from 4 points of view: the priesthood in particular, the lifestyle of the priests, the vocation in the Bible and the priest as a man.

On the first point, it is indicated that Christ does not call "out loud" to those He chooses for this career, but He does so through parents, priests, friends and teachers or by "events" such as successes in school, neighborhood problems or serious illnesses. An attempt is made to provide information on how priests live. For this there are 12 questions on the material and spiritual manner of daily living, the economic aspects and family relations.

9204

CSO: 3010/2276

BRIEFS

RURAL ROAD NETWORK GROWTH--Alejandro Diaz Camacho, general coordinator of the SAHOP[Secretariat for Human Settlements and Public Works]-COPLAMAR[expansion unknown] programs, reported today that between 1980 and 1982 24,100 km of rural roads will have been built in Mexico at a cost of 16.8 billion pesos for the benefit of 4 million peasants located in 7,600 communities. Diaz Camacho said that the building of rural roads effectively helps to halt the decline of the country and contributes to the social and economic development taking place in the national territory. He also reported that by the end of 1982, 50 communities in Michoacan State will have drinking water and sewer systems. Drinking water has been supplied to 905,000 inhabitants and sewage systems to 197,000, at a cost of 256 million and 69 million pesos, respectively. Finally, he said that in Chiapas 2.066 billion pesos have been invested since 1980 on roads, improvement of housing, drinking water and the construction of CONASUPO[Government Basic Commodities Company]-COPLAMAR warehouses. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Aug 82 p 20-A] 9204

CSO: 3010/2276

COUNTRY TO EXPORT 26 MILLION POUNDS OF MEAT

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 6 Aug 82 p 12

[Text] Nicaragua is getting ready to export some 26 million pounds of meat this year, which is 5 million more than last year, as a program takes shape that will eventually restrict internal consumption somewhat in order to encourage accumulation of greater foreign exchange resources.

This announcement was made yesterday by Ricardo Coronel Kautz, director general of cattleraising and vice minister of MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural and Cattle Development and Agrarian Reform], who supplied relevant details on the significant growth in livestock-raising activity shown by state-owned enterprises, which are experiencing considerable growth in production.

Coronel Kautz, who was accompanied by the director of ENAMARA, the National Slaughterhouse Co., Ignacio Bustos Montiel, also indicated that official meat prices will be guaranteed domestically by means of a strict system of control to be exercised by inspectors from MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] at all meat-distributing centers.

The vice minister of MIDINRA said that records for the last 6 months showed one of the highest levels of meat consumption in the country's history, which was the reason for the decision to reorient the meat supply so as to leave a greater share for export, in light of the acute need for foreign exchange the country is facing.

Fewer Middlemen

He said that state-owned slaughterhouses were developing a large capacity for concentrating beef supplies at the national level, and they are ready to reduce the number of middlemen, who consist of small groups that obtain a large proportion of the surpluses from this branch of economic activity, often at the expense of producers, who must wait 3 to 4 years to market the cattle they are fattening.

He noted that if one takes into account that the middlemen involved in the meat business number less than 70 individuals, while producers and consumers number in the thousands, it is easy to see that suppression of middlemen tends to favor the great majority.

He further indicated that government officials recently met with the women who rent the stalls in the market where meat is sold to consumers, and they were granted an exemption from transportation costs. A reduction of 50 centers per pound of beef now enjoyed by these women retailers was also confirmed.

"We listened to complaints from meat-sellers concerning the quality of the meat, and we are working to improve it. But it is necessary to point out that the meat distributed through the market is not always bad."

Nandaime Slaughterhouse To Reopen

It was also announced that the Nandaime slaughterhouse will reopen next month, which means the public slaughterhouses throughout the eastern zone will be shut down. This marks the beginning of a program whereby the municipal slaughterhouses will tend to disappear and be replaced by industrial slaughterhouses which will assume responsibility for the country's total meat production.

This will guarantee a more sanitary meat product for the people, and will end waste of a series of by-products, such as blood, bone, and other items that industrial slaughtering plants are capable of processing.

They pointed out that the Nandaime slaughterhouse alone will supply more than 300 outlets.

Further Growth

Another aspect of the interview concerned the notable increase recently experienced in 26 state-owned livestock-raising firms managed by MIDINRA, which together hold 689,800 manzanas of land, with a pasturing area of 376,264 manzanas, which includes excellent irrigated pastures as well as natural pastures where productivity is somewhat less.

Among these 26 firms, in an inventory valid up to 31 May 1982, 326,056 head of cattle were counted, of which 11,400 were devoted to milk production.

Coronel Kautz pointed out the supreme effort that had to be made to put the operations of these livestock-raising firms in order, for they were found to be totally deficient in capital resources, neglected, and in a state of almost total decay, not only due to the effects of war, but due to the historical neglect and disorderliness that characterized these properties.

He explained that, in his judgment, never before had such orderliness and control been seen in these extensive People's Ownership Sectors [APP], which leads one to expect improvements on a grand scale in production levels.

He said that while reproduction on the national level averages around 44 percent--in other words 44 out of every 100 potentially fertile cows give birth--it is estimated that the aforementioned establishment of orderly production will permit levels of reproduction to rise to 80 percent in the APP [People's Ownership Sector].

He characterized the creation of the Exclusive System of Administrative Control as one of the great aids in achieving orderliness in livestock production, and said that in the first 3 years of the revolution, this system has made it possible for the APP to make its weight felt with a 14 percent share of the nation's animal herds.

In order to give an idea of the growth of production in the state-owned branch of livestock raising, he indicated that during the first 6 months of 1982, the APP doubled its meat production as a share of the nation's slaughtered beef. "Whereas in the first 6 months of January to June, 1981, the APP produced 3.6 million pounds, during 1982 that figure rose to 6.4 million pounds," he said by way of illustrating his point.

Now More of Everything

As far as slaughtered beef goes, he emphasized that, whereas during the first 6 months of 1981, the figures barely reached 10,931 head of cattle slaughtered, during the same period of 1982 the same figure rose to 19,783 head.

Concerning milk production, the APP expects it to reach 3,563,073 gallons in 1982, a figure higher than the 3.44 million recorded in 1981.

With regard to other branches of food production, he said Nicaragua is getting ready in 1982 to produce a total of 29 million-dozen eggs, a figure without precedent in the history of our nation's production.

He confirmed that imports of eggs and chicken meat will be suspended this year. Production of the tasty bird's meat is projected to reach 27.4 million pounds, far above the 23.6 million pounds recorded in 1981. He reminded his listeners that last year, the revolutionary government was forced to import 10 million pounds of chicken to supply domestic demand.

Concerning pork production, he said that whereas in 1981--during the first 6 months--70,663 head were registered, some 78,000 hogs were inventoried in 1982.

Thus, he concluded, even taking into account all the difficulties created by economic aggressions against Nicaragua, we are firmly consolidating the structures of our state-owned food production, and the distribution mechanisms by which such products reach the people at reasonable prices are being strengthened.

9839

CSO: 3010/2250

MALNUTRITION IMPORTANT CONCERN OF GOVERNMENT

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] Malnutrition in Nicaragua is a major concern of the revolutionary government. It constitutes an enemy of the people's health, and hence of the revolution itself. It is a factor of the first order in promoting infant mortality and other pathologies that affect workers as well, as in the case of tuberculosis.

More than 400,000 Nicaraguan children under 6 years of age suffer from the scourge of malnutrition. This means that 68 percent of our infant population is suffering from different levels of malnutrition, with a mortality rate of 120 per thousand live births, and in marginal rural or urban areas up to 200 children die per thousand live births.

The main cause of malnutrition in our country is insufficient intake of calories and protein as a result of the hunger, poverty and exploitation that have existed here for decades, due to the social and economic ravages of Yankee imperialism and the consequences of the criminal Somoza regime.

Nevertheless, conditions for combating the problems of such an inheritance in Nicaragua are defined as a function of social and economic development, and of the consolidation of our Popular Sandinist Revolution. The three main goals now before us, and which should become a battlefield for all of us, are to render effective the multiplication of resources to acquire daily food items, to raise production levels of basic foods, and to achieve efficient distribution of these items on the national level, while fighting against speculation and loan sharking.

The Ministry of Public Health, with help from various foreign agencies (the World Food Program, or PMA, and the Italian-Latin American Institute, or IILA, etc.), and from the Organizations of the Masses, is developing significant integrated nutrition programs for a period of several years, at a cost of \$164,000, excluding the revolutionary government's contribution.

These programs have originated subsidiary programs such as the "Supplementary Nutrition Program" that benefits 60,000 individuals in the maternity-infant classification in 8 of the country's departments. In one year, this program has distributed 397,971 rations of nutritious foods, especially to small children in the second and third degrees of malnutrition.

Upon completion of the Supplementary Nutrition Program in November of 1982, another, similar program will be begun for the next 3 years, and it will also cover some 60,000 individuals in the departments of Managua, Chinandega, Leon, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Madriz, and Nueva Segovia.

Nutrition Programs and Nutrition Services will also be developed in the country's hospitals for children suffering from the third degree of malnutrition and serious complications. At some centers, special treatment wards exist where wet nurses are available to help maintain the child's supply of mother's milk.

Also, more than 16,000 pregnant and nursing women are being kept under observation at all health-care centers. Their height and weight measurements are being checked, and laboratory tests are being performed.

Control of endemic goiter, which up to 1979 had reached an incidence of 33 percent, has reduced its occurrence to 20 percent, although it is still considered a nutritional problem that must be eradicated.

Lack of iodine in the thyroid gland is the main cause of goiter. In this sense, the Ministry of Public Health [MINSA] exercises strict control on the iodization of salt at the country's 80 salt-producing and salt-processing plants.

Studies also continue to be performed of the Systems of Nutritional Observation in special regions and areas of the country in order to identify nutritional problems and factors that influence the problem, etc., and the results of these studies will be used to propose new strategies and programs for aid projects in conjunction with other involved agencies, such as Education, Production, Culture, etc.

Concretely, MINSA has declared an ongoing war against malnutrition, as the infant mortality rate is heavily influenced by this social evil. When our children suffer from malnutrition, they are easy prey and exceptionally vulnerable to common illnesses.

Malnutrition is a process in which the child ceases to grow; he weighs and measures less than normal (he fails to develop on a par with other, well-fed children). This means, additionally, that the undernourished infant is prone to catch other diseases and may even die, given the precariousness of his vitamin and mineral defenses.

As the main problem in poor nutrition is protein and calorie deficiency; the latter can be identified by loss of weight. When it grows more acute, it can produce a state of marasmus. That is, the skin may turn dark and the victim's appearance becomes skeletal.

In cases where protein is deficient, if the deficiency is slight, it will be indicated by retarded growth, but when the condition is severe, it will be indicated by inflammation or swelling in the legs, later in the arms, and finally over the whole body.

The skin turns dark, then becomes dry and cracked. Ulcers appear on the mouth and eyes, and the hair begins to fall out. The average incidence of such cases among our population is 57 percent.

Children suffering from the second and third degree of malnutrition will also be affected in their mental development. Their power of concentration is noticeably reduced, as well as their coordination and reflexes. They may even complain when their state of apathy is interrupted.

Deficiencies of vitamin "A" are most serious in children, according to studies that have been performed. It has been found that 20 percent of Nicaraguan children under the age of 5 suffer from serious deficiency of vitamin "A." The child's vision is the most seriously affected of his faculties due to this type of deficiencies, and in advanced cases it may cause permanent blindness.

Anemia is the result of inadequate consumption of foods rich in iron. It may be considered another nutritional problem of major importance in the rural population, specifically in children under 3 and in adolescents 12 to 17 years old. National statistics on victims of anemia reveal that 35 percent of the country's population is affected, and 30 percent of the victims are pregnant women.

Anemia is more acute in the infant population because the majority of infants suffer from infantile parasitosis.

The worst affected departments are Esteli, Matagalpa, and Jinotega, which have the highest average level of malnutrition--71 percent in urban areas and 75 percent in rural areas.

In Madriz and Nueva Segovia, an average malnutrition level of 62 percent exists in rural areas, and 82 percent in urban areas. In Boaco, Chontales, and Rio San Juan, there is 68 percent malnutrition in urban areas and 71 percent in rural areas.

The degree of malnutrition in Leon and Chinandega is considered to be 59 percent in urban areas, and 71 percent in rural areas. Zelaya has a 62 percent malnutrition rate in urban areas and 67 percent in rural areas.

Malnutrition in Managua, Granada, Masaya, and Carazo reaches 65 percent in urban areas and 66 percent in rural areas.

9839

CSO: 3010/2250

MALACATOYA SUGAR MILL PROJECT DESCRIBED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 31 Jul 82 p 12

[Text] Self-sufficiency in electric power and the utilization of land for forestry projects during the off-season of the sugar harvest year are the basic objectives of the first phase of the sugar program in what will be the Malacatoya Sugar Mill Project, according to remarks made yesterday at a press conference given by Edgard Chamorro, director of the Sugar Development Enterprise, a subsidiary of MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural and Cattle Development and Agrarian Reform].

At present, Chamorro said, the earth-moving projects were 60 percent completed and the industrial portion 15 percent completed, which means that the sugar mill will begin operating at 30-percent capacity by 1983-1984.

The official stated that besides self-sufficiency in electric power, the utilization of land to plant eucalyptus trees and other trees made available for marketing through processing in the off-season at what will be the largest sugar mill in Central America was also being contemplated.

The Dam

Regarding the construction of a dam to help supply power, Carlos Reves of the Irrigation Department of the Sugar Enterprise explained that several options had been explored prior to choosing the water sources that would result in minimum operating costs.

To this end and with the use of criteria aimed at achieving the highest yield and the lowest costs, the official added, subterranean waters and waters that feed the Malacatova River near Canoas were chosen.

Reves stated that central pivots would be used in the irrigation stations because they can be adapted to any kind of topography; the cost of operating them, he said, would be minimal. Five irrigation units have been installed to date.

Financing Assured

Mexico, East Germany, Brazil, Spain, and the Soviet Union are furnishing the financing, for the irrigation, along with the CAEI [Central American Bank of Economic Integration], and the National Development Bank.

This sugar mill has been well planned from the beginning; it will have a highly profitable production rate, which will put our country in first place in the production of sugar.

Sugar Mill With Several Buildings

Regarding physical installations, Alberto Lanuza explained that there would be a building for the vasculator, which is the part of the mill that receives the cane, and a building for the mills, which will extract the juice from the cane and then send the bagasse to the ovens to be burned, providing steam for the entire operation.

There will also be a purifying vessel or building where the molasses will be extracted for passing on to the centrifugal crystalizer for the extraction of the syrup.

There will also be cooling systems, an agricultural machinery shop, an electric substation, laboratories, computers, an office building, dining facilities, a clinic, and other logistical support services.

At the same time Edgard Chamorro asserted that by 1987, when the Malacatoya project will be completed, it will be able to sell power to the INE [National Energy Institute], as well as furnishing the power needed for the plant.

It was also explained that the construction of the dam will affect several townships; relocation plans are also being considered, in line with the joint study being conducted with the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements.

Relocation of Villages

The villages to be affected by the dam construction will be Las Canoas, La Empanada, and El Chocoyo, and some villages located along the highway in the stretch to be designated eminent domain.

The families affected will soon be relocated near Tipitapa and Los Laureles, and those engaged in farming will be organized into cooperatives and relocated in areas or on lands that are more productive and better situated.

9015

CSO: 3010/2249

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT--According to Ministry of Labor sources, employment growth statistics in Nicaragua during the previous regime (prior to 1979) reached 33 percent, but efforts to create more jobs and better the living conditions of the large majority of workers today are only experiencing a growth rate of 13 percent. This was confirmed in an analysis conducted by the ministry through its Office of Statistics, which has enjoyed permanent status since the beginning of the present government. At the same time the ministry revealed that heads of departments were given permission to release information relating to their sections to reporters interested in certain aspects of labor activities in this country involving specific problems, for which facilities would be made available to the reporters. The Ministry of Labor will provide general information on domestic activities under negotiation in the ministry, such as aspects of agreements being discussed, current claims, lists of demands, conciliation arrangements, and labor disputes. [Text] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Jul 82 p 11] 9015

CSO: 3010/2249

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

Oct. 7, 1952